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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you donated to victims of Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines and the tsunamis in Samoa and American Samoa?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of October 12, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Rainbow Rights
Tens of thousands of gay rights supporters marched Sunday from the White House to the Capitol, demanding that President Barack Obama keep his promises to allow gays to serve openly in the military and work to end discrimination against gays.

Nation...Page 14

Big Swing
"Swingers" co-stars Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau buddied up for the weekend's top movie as "Couples Retreat" debuted with $35.3 million, while the micro-budgeted fright flick "Paranormal Activity" leaped into the top 10.

Life & Style...Page 21

Illinois family ready to rebuild, restart life on Saipan. **PAGE 2**
Ex-convict is suspect in Prince Hotel robbery. **PAGE 3**

CNMI to 'support' Guam on military buildup

77-page draft document seeks public input

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI plans to provide operational support and services to Guam instead of viewing the neighbor island as a "competition" to maximize benefits from the $15-billion, multi-year U.S. military buildup in Guam.

This highlights the 77-page draft document, "A Strategic Approach: Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complimentary [sic] Support to DoD Guam."

The publication of the document marks the first time that the CNMI government has come up with a written plan on how to benefit from the movement of

See CNMI on Page 4

Feds: Lead exposure among schoolchildren still a threat

PSS initiates stop-gap measure vs fatal chemical

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Lead exposure of schoolchildren remains a serious environmental health hazard across the nation including the CNMI, according to a latest federal memorandum to the Public School System.

Sablan

This prompted the education department to put in place a comprehensive service plan on its health and nutrition program for the PSS Head Start Program.

Head Start students—children under the age of six and those living in poverty—

See FEDS on Page 4

CONSTRUCTION VALUE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
An employee of FGC Construction and Maintenance works on a three-story commercial building owned by a Russian investor right next to the Quarter Master Road intersection along Beach Road yesterday. The value of commercial and residential construction projects in the CNMI reached only $10.14 million between April and June, a 17 percent drop from $12.16 million during the same quarter last year, based on the latest economic indicators report of the Department of Commerce. The $10.14 million combined worth of construction projects include 21 commercial buildings, 14 residential units, and four government facilities.

House committee disappointed with incomplete docs submitted by DPH

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) expressed disappointment with what he described as incomplete documents received on Friday from the Department of Public Health.

Torres

The House panel gave DPH until last Friday, Oct. 9, to submit answers and documents to its questions and requests for documents on Oct. 2.

But DPH, through the Office of the Attorney General, on Thursday asked for an extension to answer all of the 232 written questions and submit all of the

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Local

CPA junks firm's 15-year lease extension at airport property

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority junked Universal Rental Corp.'s 15-year lease extension proposal during a special board meeting Friday.

However, the board agreed to allow the company, owned by businessman Joaquin M. Manglona, permission to enter into a sublease contract with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce, which both expressed interest in using a portion of the lease facility at the airport.

The board also approved the proposed 25-percent waiver for lease fee until the company pays its arrears to the agency in full.

Saipan Tribune learned that Manglona's company owes CPA $44,000, which 25 percent waiver is applicable until it is fully paid to the agency.

Universal Rental submitted four proposals to CPA: 15-year lease extension, additional parking space, 25 percent waiver of the fee, and subleasing the contract.

However, of the four only two were approved by the board last Friday. This after board vice chairman Thomas Villagomez and Margarita Prater opposed the approval of the four original proposals.

Villagomez believes that all four proposals are not to the advantage of the Commonwealth.

He even asked the board to reconsider taking action on the issue sans the board members from Rota and Tinian, who were not present in the meeting.

However, a motion by Benigno Sablan prompted the board to vote on the issue.

"I'll make the motion and take my chances…" Sablan said, describing it "as the right direction."

CPA legal counsel Jose Bermudes said the approval for the sublease must not conflict with the main lease agreement between CPA and Universal Rental.

Manglona entered into a lease with the ports authority in July 1989 for approximately 60,000 square feet of land within the airport area. As required by the lease, he built a large warehouse on the land which use was restricted to air cargo and matters closely related to it.

The company is paying $3,600 a month for leasing the property and the agreement will expire in 2019.

Manglona said despite the current depressed economy, he plans to make major improvements in the building which will consist primarily of a large temperature controlled facility and a cold storage facility. This facility will be powered by solar energy.

Other plans, he said, include a new façade on the warehouse to make it more attractive.

CPA *creates panel to look into* PAS *bidding complaint*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority has formed a new appeals panel to review the complaint filed by Marianas Wireless Communications, which challenged the winning bid of RadioCom on the public address system project at the Saipan International Airport.

CPA board chairman Jose Lifoifoi named vice chairman Thomas Villagomez as head of the committee with Fermin Sakisat, Margarita Prater, and Benigno Sablan serving as members.

Villagomez said the committee will focus its efforts in reviewing the data former executive director Efrain F. Camacho used in awarding the contract to RadioCom.

Marianas Wireless earlier described as "flawed" and "illegal" the decision to award the PAS project to RadioCom by merely basing the decision on price.

The company filed the appeal to the board after Camacho denied its first appeal.

The PAS project was announced by CPA in February and it yielded seven bidders, including eventual winner RadioCom.

However, Marianas Wireless alleged that CPA did not use the evaluation criteria cited in the request for proposal and did not provide any documentation to evidence that contractor selection was based on the criteria published for the project.

CPA, meanwhile, denied the accusation and cited that RadioCom was ranked first

See CPA on Page 4

Illinois family prepares to rebuild, restart life on Saipan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The homeless family from Illinois who pleaded for the community's help is now ready to rebuild and restart their life on Saipan.

Amy Gregg relayed this to *Saipan Tribune* and added that the family yesterday moved into an apartment in Fina Sisu and is ready to spend their first night there.

Gregg expressed great appreciation to the owners of the apartment, who agreed to have the family live there rent free for the next three months.

She said as soon as she and her husband, Richard Johnson, find employment they will start paying the rent.

Gregg and Johnson, along with her two daughters, have been on island since August but the couple have not been fortunate to land a job.

Worse, they were forced to move out of a relative's house in late September and spent 30 hours at the airport's lobby.

Offers of support and assistance were received by the family following the publication of their story that touched the community.

Gregg said that today her two daughters are scheduled to return to school following three weeks of absence.

Last week, Johnson was inter-

See ILLINOIS on Page 4

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Marketing Highlight
Hikohachi Festival, Japan

As part of a special promotion with Asiana Airlines, Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) participated in the Hikohachi Festival held at Ikutama Shrine in the Osaka region on September 5-6, 2009. The festival was organized by Japanese sit-down comedy group Kamigata Rakugo Kyokai and had over 110,000 attendees. MVA passed out destination brochures at the event, with a special appearance by the popular Saipan-da character. MVA also made a presentation at a press conference in August to promote the festival.

Osaka is the second largest region in Japan and in Fiscal Year 2008, accounted for 18% of our total arrivals from Japan. Asiana Airlines operates direct flights from Kansai to Saipan, and the airline provided a complimentary Saipan vacation package as the grand prize for the festival.

Japan remains the largest tourism market for the Northern Mariana Islands. It makes up 50% of our total visitor market. The average length of stay is 3.5 nights. Top travel plans for visitors from Japan are pleasure, golf, and diving.

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Jeannette Sablan: I never avoided CDA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesswoman Jeannette D. Sablan said yesterday she is not running away from her obligations with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

"I would like for it to be known that I have always paid my debts on a timely basis without fail. I am very confident that my past and current creditors and associates can attest to the fact that I am a very responsible debtor," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

Sablan said the gist of CDA's lawsuit against her is only for the agency to terminate the leases that she signed with two Korean businessmen who have since disappeared from the CNMI.

"Time after time, phone call after phone call, I have in a near-pleading voice asked for the attention of someone at CDA, but was always promised that it will be referred to the appropriate person, however, no such person called," she said.

The businesswoman even attended three of CDA's seminars since her return from Hawaii in 2006 to better deal with economy.

Sablan said CDA's reason for filing the lawsuit was to void two leases that she signed with two Korean businessmen who had left Saipan without contact, complicating the particulars of her loan.

Last month, CDA sued Sablan for allegedly failing to pay her 1989 loan that is now reaching to $1.2 million including interest and other charges.

CDA asked the Superior Court to hold Sablan liable to pay as of Aug. 27, 2009 the principal sum of $677,628.22 plus accrued interest of $479,457.83, plus penalty charges of $912, plus miscellaneous charges of $5,555.25 or for a total of $1,234,177.37.

CDA, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, requested the court to order the sale of Sablan's mortgaged interests in the real property consisting of 7,153 square meters of land located in Fina Sisu.

The plaintiff asked the court to pay CDA the proceeds of the sale.

The agency also moved the court to terminate the lease agreement executed by Sablan and Kyu Bong Moon, and another lease agreement entered by Sablan and Kwi Dong Woo, over the mortgaged property.

Smith said Moon and Dong were residents of Saipan who may have a claim or interest in the mortgaged property subordinate in right to that of CDA.

In the e-mail to explain her side to *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said that, in 2002, after the Sept. 11 slump, CDA offered a "Deed in lieu of Foreclosure" for her to consider which she later accepted.

Sablan said she met several times with a CDA senior loan officer and conveyed her decision on the option.

"I kept following up on documents as to when they will schedule for me to come in to sign just so that I can give notice to my three foreign contract workers of the business closing down," Sablan said.

In spite of the CDA offer, she said, the senior loan officer kept advising her to file bankruptcy which she did not want to consider.

Sablan said that, from 2002 through 2005, there was hardly any communication with CDA except her occasional follow-up phone calls.

In 2005, Sablan said, she accepted a position in Hawaii and wanted to take care of her local affairs prior to her departure.

"I left even more messages at CDA to please give me an up-date on the progress of the 'Deed in lieu of Foreclosure'. Again, my calls were not returned," she said.

In mid-2005, Sablan said she received a letter of default in Honolulu.

She said she e-mailed CDA's legal counsel immediately that this issue should be done away with if CDA had the "Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure" prepared for her to sign as she had accepted the offer after weighing all other options.

Sablan said she was made to understand that she was no longer responsible for the loan as she was just waiting for CDA to have the necessary documents drawn up for execution.

When Sablan returned to Saipan in mid-2006, she visited CDA to resume the process since she wanted closure on the loan issue that had been dragged for far too long.

"CDA claimed they were still awaiting a couple of missing documents pertaining to the leases that I had signed," she said.

Through 2007, the scenario continued and that she had not heard from CDA until Aug. 4, 2009 when she was contacted by e-mail to rush all documents forwarded to her only a few days earlier, as the agency was looking at finalizing everything within days.

"This, after waiting seven years," Sablan pointed out.

She also noted that her hands and assets were tied since she had officially conveyed to CDA via writing the acceptance of the "Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure."

"And so for years since, I turned offers down and refinancing with other institutions was no longer an option having turned over the property to CDA," Sablan said.

Ex-convict is suspect in Prince Hotel robbery

Ex-convict Jeffrey Indalecio Celis is the suspect in the recent robbery of a woman at Prince Hotel in Sadog Tasi, according to documents filed in federal court.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson said that, on Oct. 1, 2009 she received a call from Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong who revealed that Celis is the suspect in the purse snatching case at Prince Hotel.

Brunson discussed Celis' alleged involvement in the robbery in her report requesting revocation of the defendant's supervised release.

An unidentified man robbed a woman by grabbing her purse at Prince Hotel in the evening of Oct. 1, 2009.

The victim, a 57-year-old Korean female, lost her brown purse and ladies wallet containing $300 cash.

Police said the suspect was described as in his late 30s, about 5'4" tall, 140 to 150 lbs., heavily tattooed, with short dark hair. He was wearing a gray sleeveless shirt and dark short pants.

The suspect was last seen entering a house in Sadog Tasi and is still at large.

Police investigation showed that the victim and a witness saw the suspect loitering around Prince Hotel so they approached and repeatedly told him to leave the area.

The suspect, however, suddenly grabbed the victim's purse and ran into the woods.

Brunson said she learned that in that robbery case, witnesses saw Celis run into the home of Frankie "Kojak" Mafnas which is across the residence of Marianne Tudela.

Brunson said officers searched the residence and learned Celis had been living there, instead of at Tudela's home.

Brunson said that on Sept. 25, 2009 she and a co-officer went to the house of Tudela, who served as third-party custodian for Celis.

Brunson said their visit was to verify if Celis lived there and to conduct a drug test.

Tudela told them that Celis did reside in her house, but she had no knowledge as to his whereabouts.

Brunson said Celis later reported to their office and admitted using methamphetamine or "ice" in violation of his probation conditions.

Celis was convicted of three cases of burglary, and one case of robbery from 1995 to 1997.

In September 1999, the federal court sentenced Celis to 120 months and placed him on three years of supervised release for the offense of felon in possession of a firearm.

On Aug. 5, 2009, the ex-convict allegedly attacked a man with a large knife in Koblerville. He was arrested, but he later posted bail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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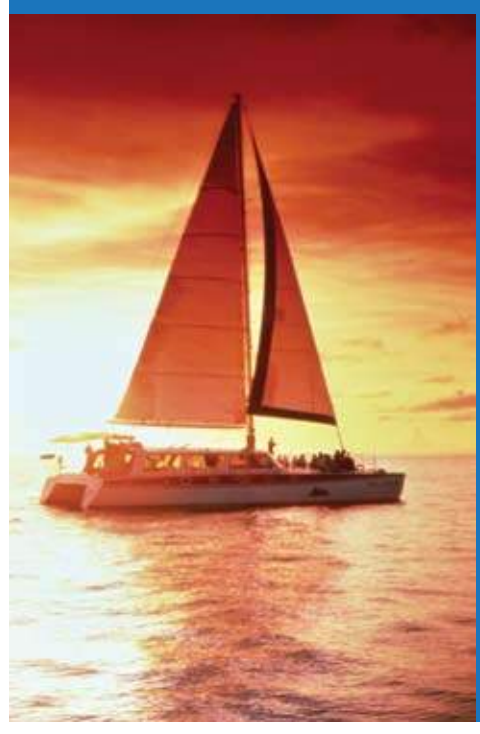

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US to airlift relief supplies to Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The U.S. Department of Defense is expected to airlift donated supplies to Samoa from California soon after approval was given by the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The American Samoan member of the US Congress, Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, says he requested extra federal help with transport of aid collected by the Samoan community in the United States.

"Secretary Clinton has given her support and endorsement at my request for military flights to conduct some of the contributions and donations that thousands of our members of the Samoan community throughout California and Utah have brought to the West Coast hopefully for air shipment to Samoa as soon as this is possible."

Congressman Faleomavaega is in Apia for today's national memorial service and to meet the Samoan Prime Minister.

He says he is confident the authorities in Samoa will be able to co-ordinate the aid distribution effectively.

CPA

From Page 2

for submitting the lowest cost proposal of $204,432. Marianas Wireless meantime, offered two price ceilings of $921,817 and $733,397 for the project's design and installation.

The Marianas Wireless said CPA erred in the procurement process due to the mistaken belief that the lowest price gives the best value to the CNMI.

Villagomez said the board will tap the services of an independent lawyer to assist them in the review process and that a decision is expected in 20 days.

"Since we give the executive director a free hand on the operation of the agency and contracts like this, the CPA board was never involved in the decision he made. Now that the company is challenging the decision made by the executive director, the board wants an independent decision-making body to do it," he said.

Early this year, two appeals were also received and addressed by the board.

GPPC, Inc. earlier appealed on the airport generator project and an employee filed a grievance against management.

In both cases, independent lawyers were hired by the board to fairly assess the appeals.

ILLINOIS

From Page 2

viewed of the Commonwealth Health Center for possible employment. Johnson has also been accepted at Northern Marianas College where he will continue his nursing degree.

Gregg, meanwhile, is also waiting for the response to her application at Marianas Visiting Nurses.

Though she admitted that they are still both jobless, she is now hopeful about their prospects for the future and forever grateful to the community's help.

Last week, the family was also approved food stamp assistance by the government. Their application to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. was also submitted.

Gregg, when asked how the family would repay the good deed of the community, vowed that the family will become good citizens of the Commonwealth and will be active in community oriented activities.

FEDS

From Page 1

are vulnerable to the fatal exposure of lead.

"The CNMI PSS Head Start program received an information memorandum from Region IX about lead screening to ensure that all children in Head Start are screened for lead content levels," Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

She revealed that "Region IX reiterated in their information memorandum that lead exposure amongst children is a serious environmental health hazard for those living in poverty and in children under the age of 6."

PSS Head Start immediately initiated lead screening procedures on all 10 centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

This was the first time such a screening was conducted among CNMI kids.

PSS partnered with nursing students from Emmanuel College to conduct tests on Tinian Head Start, while nursing students at Northern Marianas College took care of the Rota centers. The two groups collaborated their efforts to complete the tests on Saipan centers. Every program year, CNMI Head Start centers are mandated to serve 479 kids.

There are three lead analyzers used in performing the screening, which were purchased with a health and safety grant awarded by the Region IX office to Head Start.

"In line with the federal guidelines, the CNMI PSS Head Start has established procedures for lead screening as one of the comprehensive service plan administered to children in the Health and Nutrition component," Sablan said.

The result of the screening is expected to be released soon.

Lead is a natural metal found in the environment and is toxic and has no known function in the human body.

Studies have shown that young children are most susceptible to the toxic effects of lead. Long-term exposure to even low levels of lead can cause irreversible learning difficulties, mental retardation, and delayed neurological and physical development.

Lead poisoning is a particularly insidious public health threat because there may be no unique signs or symptoms. Early symptoms of poisoning may include loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, anemia, and abdominal pain. Because of the general nature of symptoms at this stage, lead poisoning is often not suspected.

HOUSE

From Page 1

dozens of subpoenaed documents as part of an ongoing investigation into the department's management, billing and collections, hiring of doctors, customer service, and handling of a bloated hemodialysis project, among other things.

While the committee gave DPH until Oct. 14 to comply with all the requests, it required the department to submit the documents and responses to questions completed and compiled by the original deadline of Oct. 9.

"We received about 70 pages. I'm disappointed with the documents they submitted. The minimum I expected was a complete response to at least half of the departments and areas of concerns but that's not the case. For example, they could have completed all the answers and documents for the Human Resources Department, or Medical Referral, instead of submitting incomplete answers to all of the questions concerning all of the departments or areas of concern. And the answers given are incomplete and not clear," said Torres.

The committee chairman received the documents at around 3pm on Friday.

Besides the subpoenaed documents and written questions, the House committee also required acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan and at least five other officials to appear and testify before the panel on Oct. 14, 15, and 16.

The 232 questions pertain to the House committee's investigation into 15 areas of concern.

These include CHC management, medical supplies and equipment, hospital billing and collections, human resources/recruitment, medical records, customer service, medical referral, Emergency Room Department, Surgery Department, Hemodialysis Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Radiology/Laboratory Department, Nursing Department, Psychiatric Unit/Psychiatrist, and the Tinian and Rota Health Centers.

CNMI

From Page 1

some 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam, some 17,000 family members, and up to 20,000 federal construction workers to the island.

The public has until this Friday, Oct. 16, to comment on the draft document.

These operational and support services, which are detailed in the draft report, include the CNMI providing airport and seaport facilities for deployment, training and relocation; provide ground forces training areas; provide storage facilities; provide solid food like "meals ready to eat" for military personnel; catering services; and lastly, provide a rest and recreation destination for military personnel.

Project Management Operations LLC, a Colorado-based global provider of project management and information technology operation consulting services, prepared the draft document as consultants to the CNMI Department of Commerce and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Strategic Economic Development Council (SEDC).

In recent months, top U.S. military officials, including Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, visited Saipan as part of a familiarization tour in the Pacific region.

So far, however, the U.S. military has not announced concrete plans for the CNMI when it comes to the buildup on Guam.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment on the draft document yesterday, said the U.S. military regional buildup is strongly viewed as one of the main sources of economic opportunity for an economic recovery, in a critical period under federalization.

He said the CNMI government and the CNMI private business sector are closely collaborating to maximize the economic benefits and reduce the costs of the Marianas U.S. military buildup.

"We want to make sure that the CNMI works with Guam, the federal government, the military, and all stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition into a new economy with federalization and the U.S. military buildup. This effort is but a starting point. Much still needs to be done. We must also coordinate our efforts with the Tinian leadership," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

The federal government will take over CNMI immigration by Nov. 28, 2009 as mandated by U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Among other things, the CNMI may lose its critical Chinese and Russian tourist markets under the visa waiver program of the federalization law. This means millions in tourism revenue loss for the CNMI.

But the void left by these two tourist market, should no legislative fix or administrative fix occur, can be filled up by economic benefits of the regional military buildup in Guam.

Strategic goal

The draft document's goal is to emphasize military opportunities associated with the regional buildup as the CNMI tries to understand how the military buildup can be beneficial to its people.

Currently, there are three recommended choices of strategy:

1. Treat Guam as the competition regarding military operations and service support;

2. Recognize Guam as an ally and offer complementary operational support and services; and

3. Maintain status quo by continuing to market the CNMI's natural resources to the surrounding populations.

Consultants Project Management Operations LLC, in the draft document, recommends for the CNMI to choose option 2 – be a complement to Guam's military buildup with the following strategy focuses in order of importance: operational support; supply and maintenance; and quality of life services.

"If the CNMI views Guam as a partner, then together, the communities can provide a complementary set of operational support, supply and services, along with the opportunities to utilize the natural resources and beauty that the CNMI offers. The islands can enjoy the successes of Guam and reap the benefits of the increased revenue opportunities for the near and long term alike," the draft document said.

If the CNMI views Guam as its competition regarding military operations and support "then the CNMI has lost," the consultants said.

CNMI military opportunities

The CNMI, being a U.S. territory and its capital island of Saipan only 120 miles from Guam, can provide alternate airport and seaport facilities that could be used to enhance training opportunities for deployment training, and operations and maintenance logistics function, the document said.

In addition to the training opportunities, the airfield operations facilities, supported by the U.S. Air Force Guam operations staff, provide alternate hangar capacity in the case of relocation of aircraft and crews due to mission requirements and/or weather.

"The CNMI's natural resources and proximity to the other forces in the region give it a unique competitive advantage that should be explored. The CNMI's unique situation provides the DoD with an excellent option for training and support services," the consultants said.

The CNMI's resources can also be used to provide surface training areas.

For example, a small arms training range, which is being planned for Tinian, is an excellent way for the CNMI to use its resources to meet the needs of the Marines and take advantage of the chance to provide critical operational support while gaining the opportunity to receive capital investment into the CNMI economy.

Historically, ranges of this nature have been estimated to provide between $10 million and $25 million in capital investment into the construction of the project.

"The CNMI has the opportunity to propose further capital investments by offering land for ammunition storage facilities on Tinian. The users of this range will require ammunition for each training rotation," the draft document said.

Other potential and specific opportunities the CNMI may have with the U.S. Department of Defense: port of embarkation and debarkation; staging of prepositioned equipment; deployment support; deployment training; and ground forces training.

"Overall, [this gives] the best opportunity for the CNMI to show its awareness of the DoD's needs and to demonstrate its willingness to support the U.S. mission in the region. The CNMI needs to move swiftly, but surely, to secure a seat at the table when support operations are being discussed," the consultants said.

Under the military supply and maintenance support, the CNMI can provide fuel storage and distribution; water storage and distribution; waste removal and processing; food handling and distribution; provide meals, catering services, potable water and ice; provide depot and field level maintenance as well as electronic maintenance; and storage facilities of all kinds.

Lastly, the CNMI can be a place where military service personnel can relax.

"The calm waters and placid beaches set an amazing backdrop that can be utilized to provide the much needed rest and relaxation opportunities that the DoD provides to its service members and families," the draft report said.

Wanted: Military liaison

Consultants Project Management Operations LLC, in the draft document, also recommended the CNMI's hiring of a military liaison "to help create the necessary relationships to effectively meet both the military's and the CNMI's requirements."

"The CNMI needs that person who can build rapport by speaking the language and understanding the needs of the [Department of Defense] while maintaining vigilant support of the CNMI's resources, heritage and goals for providing support to the DoD and its allies," the document reads.

A copy of the draft document is now available on the CNMI Department of Commerce website, www.commerce.gov.mp.

Comments on the draft document can be sent to commercedept@pticom.com.

'Jorgensen's lawsuit is bald attempt to hijack ongoing court action'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Viola Alepuyo said the lawsuit filed by two unnamed persons against the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and others, is a bald attempt to hijack an ongoing lawsuit in the Superior Court for their own enrichment.

Alepuyo, counsel for the Fund's Board of Trustees, said the board and the named trustees believe that the U.S. District Court for the NMI should dismiss the lawsuit.

Alepuyo said as an alternative, the federal court should hold the lawsuit in abeyance, pending the exhaustion of state remedies.

Two alleged retired government employees sued the CNMI government in federal court over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. They later amended their complaint to include Gov. Fitial and others as defendants in the lawsuit.

The Maryland-based attorney Bruce L. Jorgensen is representing the plaintiffs, whose identity have been withheld apparently due to their personal safety and for fear of retaliation and persecution.

In the amended complaint, being named as defendants are Fitial, Fund Board of Trustees acting chairman Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, trustees Sixto K. Igisomar and Adelina C. Roberto, acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, the NMI government, the Fund, the Fund Board of Trustees, and the Department of Finance.

Also named as co-defendants are the U.S. government, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, and 95 unnamed co-defendants.

Jorgensen asked the court to issue a declaration holding CNMI Public Law 15-15 unlawful under U.S. law as violative of rights and protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

P.L. 15-15 was signed into law by Fitial in June 2006. The law authorizes the suspension of CNMI payments owed to the Retirement Fund during a portion of the 2006 fiscal Year and during all of the 2007 calendar year.

In a motion to dismiss, Alepuyo said that, at the onset, the Fund's Board and its named Trustees have not been properly served with the summons and the complaint.

She said even, however, if the Board and Trustees had been served, the Fund's lawsuit against the NMI government continues forward on Judge Kenneth Govendo's calendar in the Superior Court, thereby precluding this lawsuit.

As an option, Alepuyo said, the federal court should put on hold the proceedings.

Attorney James Hollman, counsel for the Fund, joined in the Fund's Board and Trustees's motion to dismiss regarding plaintiffs' failure to properly serve the summons and complaint.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boy Scouts of America helped Beautify CNMI plant flame trees in Koblerville.

Boy Scouts help Beautify CNMI plan 26 flame trees

The Boy Scouts of America teamed up with Beautify CNMI volunteers over the weekend to plant 26 flame trees in Koblerville.

The tree planting was initiated by Boy Scout Harrison Smith. Harrison attended the September Beautify CNMI monthly meeting to find out about a possible community service project and left with the idea to plant flame trees in one of Saipan's villages.

The Beautify CNMI coalition helped the Boy Scouts with their project. Ron and Herminia Fusco donated 26 flame trees, Friends of the Mariana Islands donated shovels and picks, Angelo Villagomez donated fertilizer and led the planting, and some of the parents helped out with drinking water and donuts.

Beautify CNMI has cared for the Koblerville area since their creation in 2006. They regularly cut the crash and maintain the area around the substation. In 2007 they planted 36 Flame Trees along the road.

The trees planted by the Boy Scouts on Saturday filled in some of the spaces where trees had died and continued the row of trees in front of Koblerville Elementary School

"About five of the 36 trees we planted in 2007 in this village died, probably because of bush-cutter damage," said Angelo Villagomez. "This is a project I've been wanting to work more on and I'm thankful for Harrison and the other Boy Scouts for taking the initiative to get the adults to help out."

Also participating in Saturday's tree planting was Anna Villagomez, who recently returned from the mainland United States with her family. "This was a great experience," she said. "I feel like I've given something to the community and I like the way that feels." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A flame tree planted in 2007 shows sign of bush-cutter damage. Improper use of bush-cutters has damaged many trees planted by Beautify CNMI since 2006.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-034

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR MHS GYMNASIUM"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **One Year of Janitorial Services for the Marianas High School Gymnasium.**

The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed requests maybe sent to 664-3791. A Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2009 at the MHS Gymnasium at 10:00 A.M. Bids submitted by bidders who do not attend this meeting will be rejected.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-034"** containing One (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **October 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or E-mail to the following address: **florian@saipan.com.**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Ex-convict faces new charges over Upper Miha fight

An ex-convict is facing new charges over a recent drinking session that ended up in a fight at the Upper Miha in Garapan.

Police arrested Cookson Ham, 25, on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The Superior Court imposed a $15,000 cash bail for Ham's temporary liberty.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that on Oct. 3, 2009 at 8:19pm a caller informed the Department of Public Safety about a fight at Upper Miha.

Leon Guerrero said police learned that several family members were fighting at one of the housing units.

Investigation showed that Ham and some people were drinking since 5pm that day. Later, the defendant allegedly punched the face of one man.

Ham then allegedly started breaking the window louvers. He struck the victim on the head and body using the louvers.

The victim suffered injuries to the head. A woman was also injured during the attack.

Ham left the scene before the police arrived. But the third time police responded, Ham was finally arrested.

In June 2006, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Ham to 68 days for theft when he stole a wallet containing $235 from a poker player.

In January 2006, Ham was also arrested for domestic violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man in marijuana case asks permission to travel to Hawaii, again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI courts building superintendent Joseph R. Guzman has asked permission from the federal court to allow him to travel to Hawaii again.

Guzman had entered a guilty plea to the allegation he was in possession of 19 marijuana plants last year.

Guzman, through his counsel G. Anthony Long, said he wants to attend the parent-teacher conference on Oct. 13, 2009 for his stepson who is studying in Hawaii.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said the U.S. government does not oppose the travel.

Long and Benedetto agreed to allow Guzman to leave CNMI and return to Saipan on Oct. 21, 2009.

The parties agreed that the defendant should promptly notify the U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Service Office Saipan Branch upon his return to the island.

Last month, the federal court allowed Guzman to travel to Hawaii during the period between Aug. 16 to 20, 2009.

The court granted the travel request after the U.S. government and the defense agreed to let Guzman accompany his step son to study in Hawaii.

The 48-year-old Guzman pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Munson ordered the temporary release of the defendant upon posting $5,000 in unsecured bond.

Among the conditions for the release is that Guzman shall not commit any offense in violation of federal state or local law.

The defendant is also required to notify the U.S. Probation Office and get permission from the court prior to leaving the CNMI.

Guzman and his counsel signed a plea agreement with the government. Under the agreement, the prosecution will recommend no more than 30 days in prison on Saipan. The prosecution will also recommend a fine of $1,000 and $100 special assessment fee.

The agreement stated that on July 22, 2008, Guzman was found in possession of 19 marijuana plants in various sizes.

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1ST ROUND OF PGFC, MATH COURT, THESPIAN SOCIETY HELD

Hundreds of students flock to DES for three competitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of students from CNMI public and private schools joined in the first non-regional competition for primary forensic leagues, math court, and international thespian society held simultaneously Saturday at Dandan Elementary School.

For the math court competition alone, 370 students competed in categories set for junior and high school students.

The Public School System every year holds preliminary rounds for the competitions where ribbon winners qualify for the two regional rounds.

Saipan Tribune learned that this year, math court for kindergarten to fifth grade was not conducted because of the lack of volunteer coordinators.

For the 6th through 12th grade division, Dora Miura and Blossom Inos served as the event's coordinators during Saturday's event.

PSS will also for the first time send its team of math wizards to compete in the American Regional Mathematics League Competition to be held in Las Vegas in May 2010. Participants will come from the Western Pacific region and some states in the U.S.

Miura told *Saipan Tribune* that all questions for the contest categories such as algebra, numbers, and geometry were drawn from the benchmarks and standards of the PSS.

She said, since holding the math court competition, improvements in mathematics have been noted by the schools.

Last Saturday's event only had one round for each category, according to the coordinators.

As early as 8am, students, along with their parents and teachers, lined up to prepare for the competition.

Miura said every year, participants grow significantly.

One factor for the huge turnout for the math court Saturday was the chance to compete in the Las Vegas contest. Gold, silver, and bronze medalists in the regional round will form the team for the CNMI in math court.

Every year PSS sets six rounds for the contest, including the regionals.

BON VOYAGE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends and family of PFC Carldrine "Jayboy" R. Santos, standing third from right, held a "despedida" party for him recently. Santos will be heading to South Korea tomorrow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our hero, Francis Pangelinan. May the Lord continue to bless you with many more wonderful years. Greetings from your loving wife, lil' brats, and the family.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOF-005

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 3, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009** AT **10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION CONFERENCE ROOM** LOCATED IN DAN DAN. **ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME OCTOBER 23, 2009** TO MR. JOE I. QUITUGUA, DIRECTOR OF EDP, VIA E-MAIL TO finedp01@pticom.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-1115.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union
PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has rescheduled the meeting for Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 3:00 pm to Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
- A Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  May 08, 2009

II. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**
- A. Collection Status
- B. Financial Report-Monthly
- C. Operational Matters

III. **OLD BUSINESS**
- A. Audit Status
- B. SCU
- C. Outstanding Travel
- D. Meeting Date

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. Loan Polic
- B. MPLT Response
- C. Loan (TCD)

V. **MISCELLANEOUS**

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ **Viola M. Hocog**
Vice Chairperson

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Company renovates Oleai Sports Complex ball fields

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Weekend painters are busy repainting the bleachers of the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, center, seen here talking with company executives, commended all employees who took part in repainting and revitalizing the Oleai Sports Complex venue.

Executives and managers of Tan Holdings, led by its president Jerry Tan, repainted the bleachers, dugouts, and announcers booth of the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field and Francisco C. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last month.

The effort was part of the company's initiative to give back to the community and follows Tan Holding's renovation of Susupe Beach Park last year.

"Last year we renovated the Susupe Beach Park, and since then there have been so many memorable family events, picnics, and gatherings in the refurbished pavilions. After that I looked at one of the CNMI's more popular sports, baseball, and asked myself how can more people enjoy themselves?" said Tan.

Tan said it was evident that age, weather, and vandalism had destroyed much of the fan areas of the fields.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings executives and managers pose for a group photo after repainting bleachers and dugouts of the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field.

"We had a couple of visits down to the site, and my team and I immediately recognized that there were some problems that had to be addressed," he said.

Tan commended all the employees of Tan Holdings who took part in the repainting and revitalization of the sports venue.

"Baseball season will be upon us in a couple of months, and we look forward to everyone having a comfortable and clean place to play and watch the games," he said.

Before company executives and managers repainted the Oleai Sports Complex facility last Sept. 12 and 26, Tan Holdings hired a contractor to fix the once-crumbling player benches and collapsing fan bleachers.

In addition to this, the contractor completed metal work on rusting and decaying pipes and placed sheet metal throughout the area. ***(PR)***

Democratic Party HQ to open Wednesday

The Central Executive Committee of the NMI Democratic Party is inviting the public to participate in the grand opening of Democratic Headquarters in San Jose this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The new office will be open from 5pm to 7pm each day for a happy hour pocket meeting with candidates Angelo O'Connor Villagomez and Jesse Jones Torres.

"The Democrats are making a comeback," said Torres, who is running for a House of Representatives seat in Precinct 5. "This is only the beginning. Change has come to the Marianas."

Alcoholic drinks will be available for a $2.50 donation and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for a $1.00 donation.

The Democratic Headquarters is on Beach Road in San Jose just south of Marianas Printing. ***(PR)***

A Strategic Approach Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complimentary Support to DoD Guam

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, the SEDC, and Department of Commerce have sponsored and released a Draft for Public Comment

Go to http://www.commerce.gov.mp/

See "What's New" in October on Welcome Page (at bottom of page)

DRAFT CNMI - Strategic Approach to Military 090CT2009

Send Comments to: commercedept@pticom.com

Comment Period will end October 16th, 2009

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 13, 1999

Transition won't be the focus in talks, Sablan hints

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 team, strongly hinted yesterday that the local panel will unlikely agree to Washington's suggestion to discuss transition to federal immigration and minimum wage law as a way of addressing the concerns of the White House. The Northern Marianas and the United States are to resume bilateral talks Tuesday next week to tackle problems arising from differences in handling local labor and immigration policies. Both governments are still working out the final details of the itinerary of Edward B. Cohen, President Bill Clinton's special representative to the consultations, and there was no indication if gaps have been narrowed down in the parameters of discussions.

Mandatory AIDS test hits legal snag

A proposed bill requiring pregnant women in the Northern Marianas to undergo a mandatory AIDS test drew opposition yesterday over potential legal problem to the island government. In a hearing conducted by the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare, House Bill 11-327 may pose constitutional challenge because the provision mandating the test will infringe on individual rights, according to local officials. But committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said they would consider the recommendation before the House acts on the measure which aims to prevent the rise in cases of newborn babies infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

Oct. 13, 2000

CUC spent $.5-M for 80-MW bidding

Amid the unpredictable outcome at today's board meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on the controversial Saipan power plant, the government has already spent more than half-a-million dollars for a project that has yet to benefit the public. Based on available public documents, the much delayed project has incurred the government-owned utility corporation at least $500,000 since planning the procurement of the 80-megawatt plant nearly three years ago. This includes the study conducted by R.W. Beck recommending such size of the plant, which cost taxpayers' money between $200,000 to $300,000.

Garment contribution to public coffers up

The garment manufacturing industry has proven its might, contributing over $39 million in total revenues to the public coffers during the fiscal year 1999, a report from the Office of the Governor showed. The $39 million generated by the government from the garment certification fees during the last fiscal year was 6.68 percent higher than the previous year's $36 million. During the period under review, the Commonwealth generated only about $19.9 million from excise taxes and at least $5.9 million from hotel occupancy tax. Income taxes were the main source of revenue for the government, contributing more than $58 million, while business gross revenue tax replenished public coffers with some $54 million.

Oct. 13, 2003

1st governor concerned over economic situation

Though he is away from local politics and the government now, he remains very much concerned about the current situation and the economic standing of the Commonwealth, which he had had the first chance to govern. Carlos Camacho, the Commonwealth's first elected governor, could only empathize with the incumbent leaders, particularly Gov. Juan N. Babauta, as he leads the CNMI through tough economic times. "I wish Gov. Babauta the best," said Camacho in an interview Friday. "The important thing is what he is doing to rectify the problem. And I hope he puts emphasis on that." Camacho, in a rare public appearance, joined Babauta, three other past CNMI governors, and local leaders in welcoming Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and his wife Joan Friday.

CPA says no—again—to MPLA restrictions

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said it will not agree to the conditions set by the Marianas Public Lands Authority over the proposed transfer of land titles in Puerto Rico. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the CPA, is not amenable in particular to MPLA's proposal that the ports authority remit 20 or 25 percent of its revenues in exchange of the land titles. He said this would be tantamount to diversion of CPA's money. "The 25 percent is really a big problem. That's diverting revenue from what it's supposed to be. It's like deriving revenue from the airport and using it for public works," Salas said. "Our stand is still the same. We want these restrictions removed and we'd like the land conveyed to the CPA with no conditions."

Smart grid gets island test in Maui resort area

HONOLULU (AP)—A 4-square-mile patch of Maui in the nation's most fossil-fuel dependent state soon will be home to a new kind of power grid, one that saves energy by turning off household appliances when electricity is expensive and makes better use of wind and solar power.

General Electric Co. recently announced it would test its "smart grid" technology in the luxury resort community of Wailea, hoping to reduce peak electricity consumption there by 15 percent by 2012.

Planners envision installing a new kind of power meter in homes—a wall-based unit that can monitor how much electricity is being used by various appliances and turn them off at peak times during the day or night when demand for energy is higher, and thus costlier to consume. The project also would upgrade the utility's computer systems so that it can integrate more renewable energy.

There are about 70 smart grid pilots nationwide, including Miami, Seattle, Houston and Boulder, Colo. But Wailea is one of the only resort communities where the test is being conducted.

"There's a lot of opportunities for us to improve our knowledge of what's using power, and making it easier for us to shut off the power when we're not around," said Bob Gilligan, vice president for transmission at GE Energy. "Most consumers aren't really aware of how much energy they're using at any time of day."

For example, if customers knew what times electricity was most expensive, they could automatically adjust air conditioning and refrigerator temperatures, or they could choose to delay turning on the dishwasher until power demand drops.

That would save money for power users. It would also reduce the strain on the grid, allowing the electric utility to absorb more renewable energy from wind turbines and solar panels.

Located on the slopes of Haleakala, Wailea was chosen for the smart grid because rapid construction growth in the area and its isolation make it a fertile testing ground, said Peter Rosegg, spokesman for Hawaiian Electric Co., a shareholder-owned utility and the parent of Maui Electric Co.

"Eventually, advanced metering and the smart grid will be all across the country," Rosegg said. "They can learn a lot here on a small, easily manageable grid."

Half of the $14 million Maui project is paid for with a federal Department of Energy grant, with the rest of the resources and personnel contributed by General Electric and Hawaiian Electric. The pilot is being treated as part of the federal economic recovery package, which included $4.5 billion for smart grid development.

If Hawaiian Electric later decides to buy similar technology for use in other areas, it would have to put the project out to bid, with GE being one of the likely competitors. Other grid technology providers nationwide include ABB North America and Xcel Energy.

Hawaii remains the nation's most fossil-fuel dependent state, with imports supplying about 90 percent of its power needs.

Meanwhile, it's difficult for Hawaii power utilities to take on much more renewable electricity because of its unpredictable nature—the wind has to blow or the sun needs to shine, meaning old-fashioned, oil-fueled generators have to stay online to ensure power keeps flowing.

"The challenge of renewables is that they're not there when you want them," said Ted Peck, Hawaii's energy administrator, who organizes the state's efforts toward using more renewables. "The smart grid is able to manage when that energy gets to the load."

The smart grid would help integrate additional clean energy into the grid through computers that could quickly manage Maui's power needs, adding and subtracting alternative power sources when desired.

"It will give the utility another knob to turn when wind suddenly calms on an afternoon, or when people are coming home and turning on their air conditioning," said Devon Manz, an engineer at GE's Global Research Center.

Maui's independent power grid provides about 200 megawatts of electricity across the island during peak times, with its largest wind facility, Kaheawa wind farm, able to produce up to 30 megawatts within the current system.

Separate from GE's smart grid, another test project at Kaheawa aims to store and distribute 1 megawatt of renewable power using a large battery, said Noe Kalipi, director of government and community relations for First Wind, which runs the Kaheawa wind farm. Batteries and other electricity storage technologies will make natural energy more feasible to power utilities.

"We're all at the point of figuring out how to integrate more renewable energy," Kalipi said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB10-GOV-008

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **October 13, 2009.**

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **October 23, 2009** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Lease of Warehouse", IFB10-GOV-008**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M., local time, on October 28, 2009** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-007

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The proposal package will be available on or after **October 13, 2009** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **October 23, 2009** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP10-GOV-007**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., October 28, 2009 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 245

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Re-stimulating: Unemployment is bad; more fiscal debt might be worse

At 9.8 percent, the unemployment rate is higher than it has been since it hit 10.1 percent in June 1983. Since the recession began 21 months ago, the economy has shed nearly 7 million jobs. Whole industries — cars, housing, finance — have been devastated and may never recover fully.

Nevertheless, White House economists reported in September that "employment is estimated to be between 600,000 and 1.1 million higher than it would otherwise have been" because of the Obama administration's stimulus plan and other government policies, especially the Fed's monetary expansion. While no one can prove or disprove that — much less apportion credit between fiscal and monetary policy — basic economics suggests that things might have been even worse if the government had done nothing.

It does not necessarily follow, however, that the economy needs more stimulus now. Government has managed to blunt the recession, but at a cost — a higher national debt burden, which future Americans must pay off by working harder and saving more than they otherwise would have. The real question is whether the benefits of pumping even more government fuel into America's engine outweigh the risks.

We see several reasons to doubt it. The first is the sheer immensity of stimulus policies already in place. The Federal Reserve's policies, including cutting interest rates to near zero and doubling its balance sheet to more than $2 trillion, are unprecedented. Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office projects a federal deficit of $1.4 trillion for fiscal 2009, or one-tenth of the country's total economic output. A similar amount of borrowing is on tap for next year, and the government still hasn't run through half of the $787 billion in tax cuts and spending increases enacted this year.

The situation was much different in the early 1980s. Then, double-digit unemployment resulted from the Federal Reserve's tightening of the money supply to crush inflation; even at their high point in 1983, Reagan administration budget deficits reached only 6 percent of GDP. In other words, fiscal and monetary authorities had plenty of room to maneuver. Today, however, the dollar's recent plunge portends the higher interest rates or inflation that could result from a rampant Fed printing press and federal borrowing.

A second reason for skepticism is the intellectual poverty of some policy proposals. One bad idea whose time seems to be coming is a tax credit for companies that create new jobs. President Obama proposed this during the campaign and discarded it after his election, in the face of widespread criticism. It's no easy matter to prove that a new hire is really "new," in the sense that the tax credit caused it. The last time the government tried this, during the Carter administration, economists determined that it actually created just one-third of the 2.1 million jobs for which employers claimed the subsidy. Who's to say tax-subsidized workers won't get laid off after the break expires — just as auto sales plunged once "Cash for Clunkers" ended? Of course, the jobs tax credit might never end, if employers lobby for an extension, just as the real estate industry has fought for extended home-buying tax credits.

It might make sense to move some already-approved stimulus dollars from long-term programs (such as digitizing medical records) to short-term needs such as food stamps or unemployment benefits. But borrowing new money to move demand from the future to the present — whether it's demand for houses, cars, or workers — is a dubious proposition.

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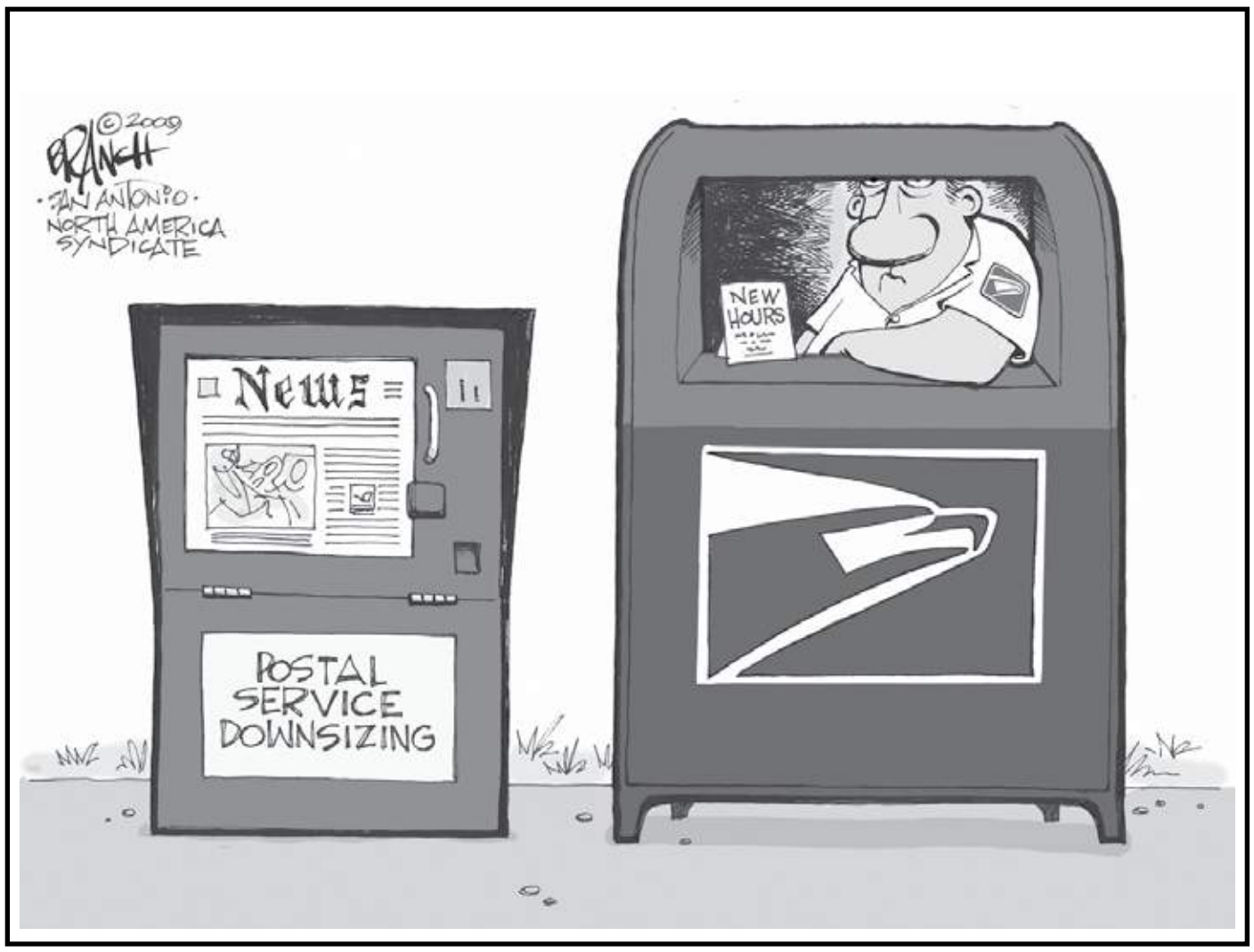

Health care has rationing in abundance

By DOYLE MCMANUS
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

McManus, a Times columnist, can be reached at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

Late last month, as the Senate Finance Committee labored to produce its version of a health care bill, the Republican whip, Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, renewed an old warning. If the federal government intervenes to hold health care costs down, Kyl said, the result would be something nobody wants: rationing.

"The federal bureaucrats would, in effect, reduce the payment to providers, forcing them to reduce the care," Kyl warned. "It's not the government directly that is actually rationing care; now, we wouldn't want to do that. We cut the providers to the point that they have to do it instead—and that result is still rationing. As far as the patients are concerned, it's still the same result."

Kyl is mostly right. If government agencies (or insurance companies or individuals) limit the price they are willing to pay for a service, then providers probably would provide less of it. To Kyl, that's rationing. But it's also sound economics.

Both Republicans and Democrats are in denial on this point. Republicans pretend that our current system doesn't stop anyone from getting all the care they need. Democrats pretend that efforts to control costs won't limit medical choices and treatment. But most real-world consumers know better: There is no free lunch. As medical technology improves, there's no way all of us can have all the high-end care we want—unless we are willing to pay for it.

At least one conservative Republican, Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, acknowledges what this debate is really about.

"Rationing occurs now," he said recently. "The question is: Who does it? Is it the government, or is it the patient (and) the doctor along with their insurance?"

As Ryan said, we already have rationing—and we have for many years, even when Republicans controlled Congress.

It's true that we don't ration health care directly. If you're willing to pay cash, you can buy all the health care you want—at ruinous retail prices.

But we do ration health care indirectly, in two ways:

First, we ration health insurance. We make affordable insurance available to some people but not to others.

Second, our insurers—insurance companies or the government, if you're on Medicare or Medicaid—ration what they'll pay for. They'll reimburse some costs but not others.

These things aren't "rationing" in the old-fashioned sense, but as far as patients are concerned (to quote Kyl), "it's the same result."

The worst thing about our current "system" is that it's irrational; decisions are often based on seemingly whimsical standards. Who gets affordable health insurance? Full-time employees of big companies—but not many part-time workers, small-business employees or individual entrepreneurs (despite being heroes of the free market). Who decides what medical costs are paid? Not "the patient and the doctor"; that only happens in the utopia of Republican rhetoric. As every insured American knows, those decisions are actually made by a not-very-accountable hierarchy of insurance executives and Medicare bureaucrats. It's not exactly rationing—but as far as patients are concerned, "it's the same result."

The results look a lot like rationing too. In 2005, Joseph J. Doyle Jr., an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studied the health outcomes of people who were seriously injured in automobile accidents—a population he chose because they had little control, at that moment, over what insurance they had or what care they received.

He found that uninsured patients stayed in hospitals for less time, received 20 percent less care and died at a rate 37 percent higher than the insured. Their care wasn't "rationed" in the classical sense, but as far as they were concerned, it was, again, the same result.

The Democrats' proposals would make affordable insurance available to millions more people, if not to everyone. So one major form of rationing—the rationing of health insurance—would be relieved.

As for making decisions about what care is paid for, and at what price—the indirect form of rationing Kyl warned about—that's a stickier point. The Democrats mostly kick the can down the road. Their bills set up a council on "comparative effectiveness research" to study which forms of care are cost-effective and which are wasteful, but they insist the board won't have power to deny payment for inefficient practices—at least, not now. Republicans are right to warn that the board might grow teeth: If it finds that a treatment produces negligible results at high cost, it will push to stop paying for it.

You would think that's a concept fiscal conservatives would applaud, but they're more intent on blocking any expansion of the federal role in health care—and on thwarting President Barack Obama.

Under the Democrats' bills, rationing reimbursements still would be indirect. The vast majority of people would keep the same insurance they have now, whether they like it or not. The main change, aside from making insurance almost universal, would be an incremental shift in decision-making power, taking a bit away from insurance companies and giving it to the federal government. With luck, that will mean more transparency when decisions are made,

See HEALTH on Next Page

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Pandemic tests a patchwork health system

By DANA MILBANK
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Milbank is a reporter for The Washington Post.

WASHINGTON—When the federal government began shipping pandemic flu vaccines last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women, who are most likely to die from the virus, should be given priority in being inoculated.

The District of Columbia had other ideas.

The D.C. Health Department decided that it would start giving vaccines to many public school kids on Oct. 19, but, as The Post's Nelson Hernandez reported, it would make private school kids who live in the District of Columbia wait two more weeks to get their shots — as if the flu somehow infected children based on tuition payments.

Inside a 13-page draft of D.C.'s flu strategy were more oddities. In addition to the CDC's priority groups, the city decided to add in its own priorities, including "essential District personnel" and "incarcerated persons." This suggested that pregnant women and children might have to compete for the shots with healthy bureaucrats and prisoners, who aren't at high risk for complications.

Federal health officials got wind of this strange plan and placed a call to the D.C. health director, Pierre Vigilance. He was home sick, as it happens — with the flu. District of Columbia officials, who say that the plan wasn't finalized and that it was never their intention to vaccinate prisoners before kids, revised their plan and are now in line with the CDC recommendations.

The episode, and the pandemic-flu response generally, point to the many problems with the nation's patchwork of a public health system. There are more than 2,500 state and local health departments in the nation, and they are plagued by huge disparities in funding and competence. A study by Glen P. Mays of the University of Arkansas found that the top 20 percent of communities had public-health agency spending 13 times greater than those in the lowest quintile. And even the best are in bad shape: The National Association of County and City Health Officials reports that local health departments cut 8,000 jobs in the first half of 2009 and 7,000 in 2008.

The swine flu vaccination program shows the strain and the disparities. The shots are paid for and shipped by the federal government, so Americans should, in theory, have equal access. But children in Illinois, New York, Utah and elsewhere started getting the vaccine on Oct. 6. Children in Prince George's County, Md., started the vaccination on Oct. 9. But children in the District of Columbia won't see their first vaccines until Oct. 19—if all goes well.

Other measures of pandemic preparedness are equally lopsided, but in a different order. The District of Columbia has adequate supplies of antiviral medicines, but half of the states don't have enough to cover more than 25 percent of their population, according to the Trust for America's Health. Colorado is the worst off, having only enough medicine for 14.9 percent of its residents.

This hasn't mattered much, because the pandemic flu strain, mercifully, has proven to be relatively mild so far. So we can consider this a drill; had this been an actual pandemic, or a biological terrorism attack, we'd all be in deep trouble. And even in the absence of such a menace, we're being ill served every day by a public health system across the country that can't keep up with obesity, diabetes and the rest of Americans' ailments.

The good news is that there's a provision in the House version of the health-care reform bill, written by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., that would fix much of the problem. Now, state and local public health departments get federal grants only for specific diseases and conditions, which makes it difficult to maintain a core public health infrastructure. Waxman would solve this by spending $1.3 billion a year on overall public health — and in exchange for the cash, state and local health departments would have to meet minimum standards for such basic things as laboratories, disease surveillance and vaccine delivery. A national accreditation board would enforce the standards.

"Is there a minimum core capacity that every American should expect their local health department can deliver? We think the answer is yes," said Jeffrey Levi, director of the Trust for America's Health. "The federal government has been more reluctant than it ought to be in ensuring some kind of consistency."

As this fall's pandemic response shows, it's time to shed that reluctance.

Rights still to be won

By JULIAN BOND
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a professor of history at the University of Virginia and distinguished professor in residence at American University, is board chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The civil rights struggle for legal equality in America today is no less necessary, nor worthy, than a similar struggle fought by blacks several decades ago. Now, as then, Americans are denied rights simply because of who they are. When lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans gather in Washington on Sunday for the National Equality March, they will invoke the unfulfilled promise in our Constitution that they, too, are due equal protection under the law.

I will join them in their march because I believe in their equality and believe in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution that promises to protect it. I will join them because the humanity of all people is diminished when any class of people is denied privileges granted to others. I will join them because I know that when heterosexuals stand up and call for justice alongside their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters, the sooner justice will come.

In the ugly days of racial segregation, we had a dream. In August 1963 we came to Washington and declared that dream to the nation. Among us that day were LGBT Americans such as Bayard Rustin, the chief organizer of the '63 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. His homosexuality caused discomfort among some leaders of the day, and they played down his role in the march. But his heroic work has served as a model for civil rights organizers ever since.

We can no longer pretend that civil rights do not include rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. Flimsy justifications for anti-LGBT bias are giving way to evidence that society is strengthened, not weakened, when LGBT people are given equal protection under the law. Where they are free to marry those they love, the sky has not fallen. Where they cannot be denied employment and housing simply because of who they are, the sky has not fallen. Where they serve nobly in the military without the burden of secrecy, the sky has not fallen. Rather, when all people are free to live up to their full potential, all of society benefits. Yet the United States still permits all these forms of discrimination.

And this is why we must march.

My friend Coretta Scott King said in 2000: "Freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation is surely a fundamental human right in any great democracy, as much as freedom from racial, religious, gender or ethnic discrimination." That is why the NAACP resolved several years ago that "we shall pursue all legal and constitutional means to support non-discriminatory policies and practices against persons based on race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or cultural background."

The civil rights movement has achieved tremendous victories in past decades, and so we must again. The bias against LGBT people tolerated in this land, even at the end of the first decade of the new millennium, is ugly. We must create a better future, which will give us a past upon which we can look back and be proud. This weekend, those who believe in the ideals of our Constitution, those who have a dream that we will one day live in a nation where people will be judged not by whom they love but by the content of their character, and those who stand up for their ideals can be proud that they stood up and spoke out for justice.

The third Mideast option

By EPHRAIM SNEH
Special to The Washington Post

Ephraim Sneh, a retired general in the Israeli Defense Force, served in the Israeli government as minister of health, minister of transportation and deputy minister of defense. He is chairman of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue at the Netanya Academic College.

The difficulties surrounding preparations for the Obama-Netanyahu-Abbas meeting in New York last month should bring the U.S. administration to one conclusion: There is no sense in pressing for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks now. That is not because there is no urgent need of a negotiated agreement — there certainly is. It is because the political constraints of both leaders, the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, prevent any progress at the negotiation table. Abbas, without substantial achievements, cannot explain to his people why he made substantial concessions to the Israelis. Netanyahu, given the political composition of his government, cannot provide Abbas with such achievements.

We have to remember that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is not an a la carte menu. It's more like a business lunch. You can't pick the courses that you like; they are already fixed. The agreement will include two capitals in Jerusalem and the relocation of 100,000 settlers. The slightest Israeli manifestation of flexibility that leaks from the negotiating room will spark an offensive maneuver against Netanyahu by panic-stricken hard-liners within his own party and his own cabinet. There is no majority there willing to support something that might satisfy the Palestinians.

The inevitable collapse of the talks would be another blow to the fragile peace process and to the two-state solution. Hamas and the regime in Tehran would celebrate. The cynics would say, "We told you so." The prestige of President Obama would be damaged, especially after winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

If talks are not a viable option, only two options are left for the American president. One is to put his own plan for a two-state solution on the table; this undoubtedly would resemble the plan that his predecessor Bill Clinton proposed in his last days in office. Obama could invite Abbas and Netanyahu to Washington and tell them to take it or leave it. If one party rejects the president's plan, he will lose the support of the United States. If both parties reject it, they will get the phone number of the White House (as Secretary of State James Baker provided), and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be erased from this president's agenda. There are other troubles in the world for Obama to worry about. I doubt that the current administration can absorb all the risks of this option.

The other option is to promote the plan of the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad. His detailed plan is designed to build a de facto Palestinian state in two years. The plan is based on improvement of governance, improvement of government services, economic development and effective law enforcement by a strong, unified security force. This is a pragmatic plan, without too much rhetoric.

Since the prime minister of Israel accepted the principle of two states, Fayyad's plan does not contradict any interest of Israel. The United States can vigorously support Fayyad's plan and insist upon its implementation in two years. Israel would be asked to facilitate the plan and to rein in militant settlers. It would be rewarded by the bolstering of its indigenous capabilities to fend off and thwart the Iranian threat.

After two years of implementing Fayyad's plan, the Israeli-Palestinian talks could be started in a different atmosphere. Success of the plan in the West Bank would eventually shorten the rule of Hamas in Gaza, especially if Egypt acted to totally cut the flow of arms and money to the terrorist movement.

International as well as American support of this plan would improve life in the West Bank while keeping alive, and bringing much closer, the political horizon of an independent state.

In this third option there are no fireworks or fanfare of peacemaking, but it could bring about real progress toward a two-state solution, to which President Obama is committed. This is probably the only option that can work.

HEALTH

From Page 10

maybe even a little more accountability. Under "Obamacare," if we don't like the way our health insurance is run, we can vote the rascals out. We can't do that to Blue Cross, Aetna or United Healthcare.

So the bad news is: Yes, there will be rationing. The good news: Whether we realize it or not, most of us are used to it already.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

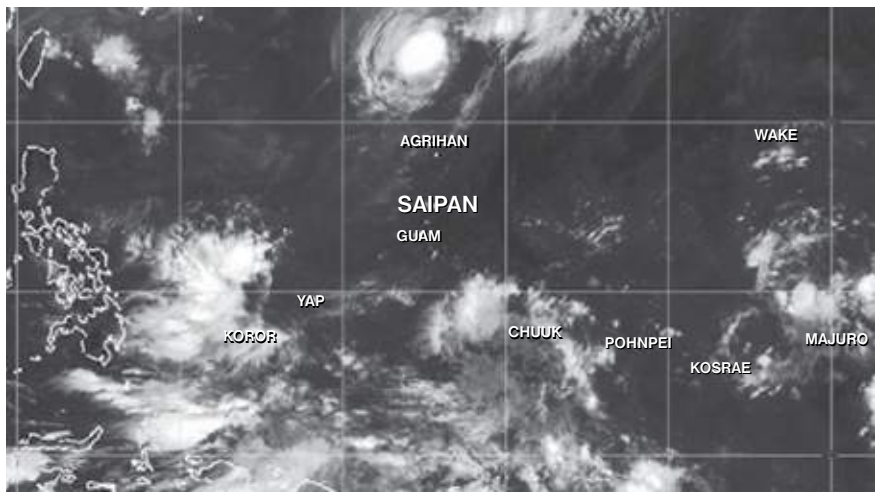
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90	▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼46
Beijing	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Los Angeles	Rain	▲69	▼61
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼79
New York	Showers	▲63	▼44
Osaka	Showers	▲73	▼58
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼53
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼37
Salem	Rain	▲56	▼47
San Francisco	Rain	▲69	▼58
Seoul	Showers	▲68	▼52
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Nepartak (21W) is centered southeast of Iwo To Japan near 23N144E and moving northeast at 8 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 75 miles of the storm center. For more information on Tropical Storm Nepartak, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of the Marianas within 50 miles of a line from 14N147E to 17N146E to 24N149E. A surface trough extends southward from Nepartak to a broad circulation centered near Yap at 10N140E then continues southeastward through another weak circulation centered near Pohnpei at 5N158E to end at EQ169E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap and Koror within 150 miles of a line from 11N139E to 7N134E to 3N133E to EQ133E and south of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 7N148E to 2N154E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near and over the Marshall Islands within 125 miles of a line from 12N168E to 9N174E to 6N167E to 9N163E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:24 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:04 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:27 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:14 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:04 AM	2:09 PM
Wednesday	2:04 AM	2:53 PM
Thursday	3:02 AM	3:36 PM
Friday	3:58 AM	4:17 PM
Saturday	4:53 AM	4:59 PM

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Tough choices for feds giving out broadband money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government will soon start handing out the first $4 billion from a pot of stimulus funds intended to spread high-speed Internet connections to more rural communities, poor neighborhoods and other pockets of the country clamoring for better access. The challenge is that the government has received $28 billion in requests.

So the reviewers at the Commerce and Agriculture Departments who will award the broadband money must make hard choices. The 2,200 applications each envision something different—more fiber-optic lines, for example, or computer labs or municipal wireless networks. But they all promise that their proposals will create jobs and bring new economic opportunities.

What follows are snapshots of four projects representing a cross section of the broadband stimulus hopefuls. It's too soon to know which plans will win federal grants or loans, either in this round of funding or in the next, as the total broadband stimulus expands to $7.2 billion. Those that do get picked may not get the full amount they are seeking.

AP

A former wireless Philadelphia device is seen mounted on a light pole in view of City Hall in Philadelphia, Friday, Oct. 9, 2009.

But perhaps one—or more—of these projects has a chance.

For the Coeur d'Alene Indian tribe in the Idaho panhandle, the stimulus money could mean a lifeline to the outside world.

The tribe is asking for $12.2 million for a ring of fiber-optic lines that could connect up to 3,500 homes on one side of its rural reservation, which is about half the size of Rhode Island.

Right now, the tribe's landline broadband options are limited. The local cable company has pulled out of the market. And the phone company, Verizon Communications Inc., offers digital subscriber line (DSL) service to just a small slice of the reservation.

Although the tribe launched its own wireless network in 2005 with the help of Agriculture Department funding, that network reaches less than half the reservation and slows to a crawl whenever too many people get online at once.

Valerie Fast Horse, the tribe's information technology director, says stimulus money would let the Coeur d'Alene Indians build a network that is "more stable and more reliable" and could deliver faster connections at lower prices.

The tribe's wireless network currently offers top speeds of 1.5 megabits per second, comparable to standard DSL service available elsewhere. But it charges users about $100 a month, about four times the standard price. The proposed fiber network would deliver a 20-megabit connection—faster than what most cable subscribers get—for $100 a month. Or tribe members would be able to get a 1.5-megabit connection for $25 a month.

Investors' focus shifts to 3Q earnings reports

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—With earnings reports arriving in earnest this week, investors are likely to get a boost in optimism or an unpleasant surprise.

The stock market's focus this week will be companies' third-quarter earnings announcements and forecasts for the coming quarters. A surprisingly good profit report from aluminum maker Alcoa Inc. last Wednesday helped lift investors' expectations for the results being released this week, including reports from some of the nation's biggest banks.

"Financial institutions are what brought the markets to their knees," said Eric Thorne, senior vice president of Bryn Mawr Trust Wealth Management in Bryn Mawr, Pa., referring to the financial industry crisis that began with the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. a year ago.

"I think it's very important to see how far they've come in the last few months."

JPMorgan Chase & Co. issues its results Wednesday, followed by Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp.

In all the corporate reports over the next three weeks, investors will be looking for signs of improvement in the economy. From the banks, investors are hoping to see some sign that consumer loan defaults, including mortgages, are starting to level off. They're also concerned that banks are now having problems with commercial real estate loans as well.

Other companies reporting next week include Google Inc., Southwest Airlines Co. and Dow Jones industrial average components such as computer chip maker Intel Corp., computer maker IBM Corp., industrial and financial conglomerate General Electric Co., and Johnson & Johnson, the world's biggest healthcare company.

If the news this week is good, the Dow may well pass 10,000 for the first time in a year. The Dow closed Friday at 9,864.94, leaving it less than 136 points from returning to five digits.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Survey: Gas prices drop 4.5 cents nationwide

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has dropped 4.5 cents to $2.47 over a two-week period. That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday. Analyst Trilby Lundberg says the average price for a gallon of mid-grade was $2.61. Premium was at $2.73. Cheyenne, Wy., had the lowest average price among cities surveyed at $2.16 a gallon for regular. Anchorage was the highest at $3.23. In California, a gallon of regular cost an average of $3.01. Stockton had California's least expensive gas at $2.91 a gallon. San Francisco remained the state's steepest at $3.09.

Asian stocks mostly lower as US earnings eyed

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stocks were mostly lower Monday amid caution ahead of earnings announcements from large U.S. companies that could shed light on the state of the world's largest economy. Oil prices, meanwhile, climbed above $72 a barrel and the dollar gained against the yen and euro after falling steeply last week. Global investors are eyeing third-quarter earnings announcements and forecasts for the coming quarters for signs the U.S. economy is on a sounder footing. After aluminum maker Alcoa Inc. kicked earnings season off with results that topped expectations, major banks like JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Citigroup Inc. will be releasing their reports, as will Google Inc. and General Electric Co.

Phase 1 of PCB removal on Hudson wrapping up

FORT EDWARD, N.Y. (AP)—Crews dredging a polluted stretch of the upper Hudson River this year battled high water, old logging debris and unexpected levels of PCB contamination that slowed progress. But as the first phase of one of the most costliest and complex federal Superfund projects wraps up this month, regulators say results are generally positive and show dredging can work. They are already preparing for a far more expansive second phase, which would clean up 40 miles of river and likely push total project costs over $700 million. "We took on Mother Nature. She threw everything at us but the kitchen sink, from timber, to boats that were sunk, to tree branches," said George Pavlou, acting regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. "We prevailed in the end."

Insurers escalate criticism of health overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—The insurance industry sharply escalated its criticism of the Senate health care bill Sunday, charging that the legislation would shift costs to privately insured people, raising the price of a typical policy by hundreds - if not thousands - of dollars annually.

A spokesman for Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., whose 10-year, $829 billion overhaul plan faces a final committee vote Tuesday, questioned the credibility of the late-innings cost estimate. "It's a health insurance company hatchet job, plain and simple," said Scott Mulhauser.

Until recently, the health insurance industry has been working behind the scenes to shape legislation, while publicly endorsing President Barack Obama's goal of affordable coverage for all Americans. The fragile alliance is growing strained as legislation advances toward floor votes in the House and Senate.

Late Sunday, the industry trade group America's Health Insurance Plans sent its member companies a new accounting firm study that projects the legislation would add $1,700 a year to the cost of family coverage in 2013, when most of the major provisions in the bill would be in effect.

Premiums for a single person would go up by $600 more than would be the case without the legislation, the PriceWaterhouseCoopers analysis concluded. The study was commissioned by the insurance group.

"Several major provisions in the current legislative proposal will cause health care costs to increase far faster and higher than they would under the current system," Karen Ignagni, the top industry lobbyist in Washington, wrote in a memo to insurance company CEOs.

Employees may see new insurance choice this fall

By TOM MURPHY
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Workers may need to do more homework when they evaluate their health coverage options this fall.

This year, more employers may include a new type of plan that can chop premium payments by nearly 20 percent and give consumers a tax break.

The tradeoff is higher deductibles, which have the potential to swamp customers with big bills. The plans, called consumer-directed health plans, vary from employer to employer and require careful comparison with other choices before making the switch.

These plans have been around for several years, but more employers are considering offering them as health costs rise and the recession fosters a new push to cut costs. Employees could see these higher deductible plans among their choices for the first time as open enrollment, the annual window when businesses allow employees to adjust their coverage, begins in a few weeks at many companies.

A consumer-directed health plan typically pairs insurance that carries a high annual deductible with an account fed either by an employer or by the employee through pre-tax contributions to help cover costs.

The deductibles—which start around $1,200 a year and can approach $10,000 for family coverage—make the customer pay more money out-of-pocket for care before most coverage starts. The idea behind this insurance is to give clients an economic incentive to spend carefully, while providing protection from devastating medical bills. Some plans also provide annual physicals and other screenings at no cost to patients to encourage basic and preventive care that could stave off bigger bills down the line.

Nation

Gay rights advocates march on DC, divided on Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tens of thousands of gay rights supporters marched Sunday from the White House to the Capitol, demanding that President Barack Obama keep his promises to allow gays to serve openly in the military and work to end discrimination against gays.

Rainbow flags and homemade signs dotted the crowds filling Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House as people chanted "Hey, Obama, let mama marry mama" and "We're out, we're proud, we won't back down." Many children were also among the protesters. A few counter-protesters had also joined the crowd, which stretched several blocks by the afternoon.

Jason Yanowitz, a 37-year-old computer programmer from Chicago, held his daughter, 5-year-old Amira, on his shoulders. His partner, Annie, had their 2-year-old son, Isiah, in a stroller. Yanowitz said more straight people were turning out to show their support for gay rights.

"If somebody doesn't have equal rights, then none of us are free," he said.

"For all I know, she's gay or he's gay," he added, pointing to his children.

Keynote speaker Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP, firmly linked the gay rights struggle to the Civil Rights movement, saying gays and lesbians should be free from discrimination.

"Black people of all people should not oppose equality, and that is what marriage is all about," he said. "We have a lot of real and serious problems in this country, and same-sex marriage is not one of them. Good things don't come to those who wait, but they come to those who agitate."

AP

Daniel Raeder, 17, of Rockville, Md., holds a rainbow flag by the Capitol as thousands of gay rights advocates rally in Washington, on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009.

Some participants in the National Equality March woke up energized by Obama's blunt pledge to end the ban on gays serving openly in the military during a speech to the nation's largest gay rights group Saturday night.

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday that Congress will need to muster the resolve to change the "don't ask, don't tell policy"—a change that the military may be ready for.

"I think it has to be done in the right way, which is to get a buy-in from the military, which I think is now possible," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

Obama's political energies have been focused on two wars, the economic crisis and health care reform, though he pledged "unwavering" commitment even as he wrestled with those problems.

March organizer Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and a protege of gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk, said he had initially discouraged a rally earlier in the year. But he and others began to worry Obama was backing away from his campaign promises.

"Since we've seen that so many times before, I didn't want it to happen again," he said. "We're not settling. There's no such thing as a fraction of equality."

Pop singer Lady Gaga got the biggest cheers on stage. She didn't perform but pledged to reject homophobia in the music industry for her "most beautiful gay fans in the world."

Prison time, felony charges rare for relic looters

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Stepping into the afternoon sun last month, Jeanne Redd and her daughter Jericca walked away from a federal courthouse with probation papers—not prison time—for their role in the theft and illegal trafficking of Indian artifacts.

Some, including one of the Salt Lake City's daily newspapers, expressed frustration that the judge didn't come down harder on the duo from southern Utah.

History however says the punishment for the Redds, who pleaded guilty to several felonies, was fairly typical. Despite high-profile arrests and indictments, most people convicted of illegally digging up, collecting and cashing in on artifacts in the United States don't go to prison.

And for those that do, most are in for a year or less, according to a 10-year analysis of prosecutions under a 1979 law meant to punish those that foul the country's cultural resources.

In Jeanne Redd's case, prosecutors had sought at least 18 months in prison. She's among 26 people charged after a federal sting operation that lasted more than two years and included hundreds of transactions between an undercover agent and buyers and sellers from Utah, New Mexico and Colorado.

A darker side of Columbus emerges in US classrooms

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Jeffrey Kolowith's kindergarten students read a poem about Christopher Columbus, take a journey to the New World on three paper ships and place the explorer's picture on a timeline through history.

Kolowith's students learn about the explorer's significance—though they also come away with a more nuanced picture of Columbus than the noble discoverer often portrayed in pop culture and legend.

"I talk about the situation where he didn't even realize where he was," Kolowith said. "And we talked about how he was very, very mean, very bossy."

Columbus' stature in U.S. classrooms has declined somewhat through the years, and many districts will not observe his namesake holiday on Monday. Although lessons vary, many teachers are trying to present a more balanced perspective of what happened after Columbus reached the Caribbean and the suffering of indigenous populations.

"The whole terminology has changed," said James Kracht, executive associate dean for academic affairs in the Texas A&M College of Education and Human Development. "You don't hear people using the world 'discovery' anymore like they used to. 'Columbus discovers America.' Because how could he discover America if there were already people living here?"

In Texas, students start learning in the fifth grade about the "Columbian Exchange"—which consisted not only of gold, crops and goods shipped back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, but diseases carried by settlers that decimated native populations.

In McDonald, Pa., 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, fourth-grade students at Fort Cherry Elementary put Columbus on trial this year—charging him with misrepresenting the Spanish crown and thievery. They found him guilty and sentenced him to life in prison.

"In their own verbiage, he was a bad guy," teacher Laurie Crawford said.

Of course, the perspective given varies across classrooms and grades. Donna Sabis-Burns, a team leader with the U.S. Department of Education's School Support and Technology Program, surveyed teachers nationwide about the Columbus reading materials they used in class for her University of Florida dissertation. She examined 62 picture books, and found the majority were outdated and contained inaccurate—and sometimes outright demeaning—depictions of the native Taino population.

AP

In this Oct. 9, 2009 photo, Kindergarten students Kaileen Barreto, left, and Shayonna Bridgeman load supplies into a paper replicas of the ships Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria during a lesson about the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World at Philip Shore School of the Arts in Tampa, Fla.

ACROSS THE NATION

Iraq War veteran opens fire on police in Indiana

LYNN, Ind. (AP)—An ex-Marine who served in Iraq has been charged with three counts of attempted murder of a police officer after firing on police. Authorities say 26-year-old Andrew Ward of rural Lynn fired four shotgun blasts at three officers Friday night at a rural farm house. No officers were hurt. After that weapon and another malfunctioned, officers used a stun gun to subdue Ward. He was being held without bond Sunday. He also faces preliminary charges of criminal recklessness, battery and intimidation.

Wash. landslide blocks highway, forces evacuations

NACHES, Wash. (AP)—A massive landslide in central Washington state has blocked a highway, diverted a river and heavily damaged a home. No injuries have been reported, but authorities tell the Yakima Herald-Republic that residents near the sparsely populated community of Nile were being evacuated because of flooding fears. Several homes received water damage as the Naches River sought a new course around the slide.

Official: Census takers want teams after Ky. Death

BIG CREEK, Ky. (AP)—The manager of a part-time census taker who died under mysterious circumstances in southeastern Kentucky says other workers are requesting to visit houses in teams rather than alone. Wayne Hatcher is regional director of the U.S. Census Bureau's office in Charlotte, N.C. He was at a memorial Sunday in the Daniel Boone National Forest near the spot Bill Sparkman's body was found one month ago with the word "Fed" scrawled on his chest, likely in pen. Sparkman was tied to a tree with a rope around his neck.

Tropical storm forms in Pacific off Mexico's Baja

MIAMI (AP)—The U.S. National Hurricane Center says Tropical storm Patricia has formed in the Pacific, hundreds of miles off Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Forecasters at the Miami center said a tropical depression had strengthened during the day to become the named tropical storm late Sunday. At 11 p.m. EDT, the center of Patricia was located about 355 miles south-southeast of the southern tip of Baja California. Patricia was reported to be moving toward the north at about 7 mph Monday. The center says maximum sustained winds were near 40 mph with higher gusts and some strengthening forecast to occur in the coming 48 hours.

Asia

Attacks show Taliban resurgence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A week of terror strikes across Pakistan, capped by a stunning assault on army headquarters, show the Taliban have rebounded and appear determined to shake the nation's resolve as the military plans for an offensive against the group's stronghold on the Afghan border.

The 22-hour attack on Pakistan's "Pentagon" in the city of Rawalpindi, which ended with 20 dead Sunday, was the third terror attack in a week to shake this nuclear-armed nation. It demonstrated the militants' renewed strength since their leader was killed by a U.S. missile strike in August and military operations against their bases.

The U.S. has long pushed Islamabad to take more action against Taliban and al-Qaida militants, who are also blamed for attacks on U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, and the army carried out a successful campaign against the militants in the Swat Valley in the spring.

But the army had been unwilling to go all out in the lawless tribal areas along the border that serve as the Taliban's main refuge. Three offensives into South Waziristan since 2001 ended in failure and the government signed peace deals with the militants.

On the heels of the Swat victory, the military launched a campaign of airstrikes on the militants in Waziristan and in recent weeks officials said they were preparing a full offensive there.

That was before the embarrassing attack on army headquarters bolstered militants' assertions they are ready to take on the military, and threatened to deflate the army's newfound popularity.

In the wake of the seige in Rawalpindi, the government said it would not be deterred. The military launched two airstrikes Sunday evening on suspected militant targets in South Waziristan, killing at least five insurgents and ending a five-day lull in attacks there, intelligence officials said.

"We are going to attack the terrorists, the miscreants over there who are disturbing the state and damaging the peace," Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said. "Wherever they will be, we will follow them. We will pursue them. We will take them to task."

AP

Pakistani army troops return back to base camp after conducting an operation their own army's headquarters in Rawalpindi, Pakistan on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009.

Clinton downplays threat to Pakistan nuke arsenal

DUBLIN (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday the Taliban siege of Pakistan's army headquarters showed extremists are a growing threat in the nuclear-armed American ally, but she contended they don't pose a risk to the country's atomic arsenal.

Clinton, in London on the second leg of a five-day tour of Europe and Russia, also joined British Foreign Secretary David Miliband in warning Iran that they would not wait long for the Islamic republic to convince the world that its nuclear intentions are peaceful.

Before stops in Ireland and Northern Ireland, Clinton pledged continued U.S. support for the Northern Irish peace process and said those who continued to exacerbate tension and violence "are out of step and out of time."

With her British counterpart, Clinton said there was nothing to suggest that Pakistan's nuclear weapons could fall into terrorist hands despite Saturday's audacious Taliban attack on the army headquarters in Rawalpindi that highlighted security weaknesses.

Clinton said extremists were "increasingly threatening the authority of the state, but we see no evidence that they are going to take over the state. We have confidence in the Pakistani government and military's control over nuclear weapons."

Miliband told reporters at a joint news conference with Clinton that although Pakistan faced a "mortal threat" from extremists, there was no danger of its nuclear weapons being compromised.

He scolded those who might raise the suggestion. "I think it's very important that alarmist talk is not allowed to gather pace," he said.

The Taliban have launched a series of increasingly bold attacks on military and political targets in Pakistan in recent months. The latest came Saturday, when militants dressed in military fatigues attacked the army headquarters, taking dozens of hostages. The 22-hour siege ended Sunday when commandos stormed the building. At least 19 people died in the standoff, including three captives and eight of the militants.

Miliband said he and Clinton had spent much of their time discussing the conflict in Afghanistan, the situation in neighboring Pakistan and the crisis over Iran's nuclear program.

They deferred comment on the Obama administration's review of how to handle Afghanistan, particularly following allegations of fraud in the presidential election in August. But they were firm on Iran, which is defying international demands to come clean about its nuclear ambitions.

UN chief acknowledges fraud in Afghan vote

KABUL (AP)—The top U.N. official in Afghanistan on Sunday acknowledged "widespread fraud" in the disputed presidential election and rejected allegations from a former deputy that he covered up cheating to smooth the path to victory for President Hamid Karzai.

The remarks by Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide appeared designed to win back respect for both the troubled U.N. mission and the entire election process ahead of a ruling by investigators on whether fraud was extensive enough in the Aug. 20 balloting to require a runoff.

Eide's reputation was tarnished when his deputy Peter Galbraith alleged that the U.N. mission chief downplayed allegations of widespread ballot-stuffing by Karzai's supporters. Galbraith, the top-ranking American in the U.N. mission, was fired Sept. 30 by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon after the widely publicized dispute.

A U.N.-backed fraud panel is expected to decide this week whether to throw out enough votes to require a runoff between Karzai and his top challenger, Abdullah Abdullah. Doubts about the U.N.'s neutrality could throw the panel's rulings into question.

The Obama administration and its international partners had hoped the vote—the first presidential election run by Afghans—would restore legitimacy to a government plagued by weakness and corruption. Instead, widespread allegations of ballot-box stuffing have sullied Karzai's reputation and Galbraith's accusations threaten to undermine the credibility of the U.N. which helped organize the election.

In a separate news conference, Karzai told reporters that "confusion" over election results had been "created by Western elements in our country." He did not elaborate.

As China's economy grows, so do mounds of garbage

ZHANGLIDONG, China (AP)—Visitors can smell this village long before they see it.

More than 100 dump trucks piled high with garbage line the narrow road leading to Zhanglidong, waiting to empty their loads in a landfill as big as 20 football fields.

In less than five years, the Zhengzhou Comprehensive Waste Treatment Landfill has overwhelmed this otherwise pristine village of about 1,000 people. Peaches and cherries rot on trees, infested with insect life drawn by the smell. Fields lie unharvested, contaminated by toxic muck. Every day, another 100 or so tons of garbage arrive from nearby Zhengzhou, a provincial capital of 8 million.

"Life here went from heaven to hell in an instant," says lifelong resident Wang Xiuhua, swatting away clouds of mosquitoes and flies. The 78-year-old woman suddenly coughs uncontrollably and says the landfill gases inflame her bronchitis.

As more Chinese ride the nation's economic boom, a torrent of garbage is one result. Cities are bursting at the seams, and their officials struggle to cope.

The amount of paper, plastic and other garbage has more than tripled in two decades to about 300 million tons a year, according to Nie Yongfeng, a waste management expert at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

Americans are still way ahead of China in garbage; a population less than a quarter the size of China's 1.3 billion generated 254 million tons of garbage in 2007, a third of which is recycled or composted, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino troops search for kidnapped Irish priest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops and police searched Monday for a 78-year-old Irish missionary after heavily armed men abducted him from the garden of his residence in the country's volatile south. The six gunmen dragged the Rev. Michael Sinnott into a van in front of his horrified aides inside the Columban House compound in Pagadian city, Zamboanga del Sur province, late Sunday, regional police commander Angelo Sunglao said. "They could not do anything because the abductors had powerful weapons," Sunglao told The Associated Press. No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, but suspicion fell on Muslim guerrillas who have been fighting for a separate homeland in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades and have in the past kidnapped foreigners, including priests. The abductors took Sinnott away by sea on a motorboat toward a town called Tukuran, Sunglao said, citing fishermen who saw the abduction. The van was later found abandoned and burned near the Catholic mission house.

Protest in Bangkok calls for Thai PM to step down

BANGKOK (AP)—Thousands of supporters of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, all in red shirts, rallied Sunday in Bangkok to demand the government step down and call fresh elections. Supporters of Thaksin have been staging sporadic protests that have threatened to rekindle the political turmoil that has gripped the country since before the former leader was ousted in a 2006 military coup. Sunday's protesters called for Parliament to reinstate the 1997 constitution that was abolished after the coup in addition to their demands that the government be dissolved. "If the government is sincere, why not return to the old constitution, which was written by the people and for the people, and return the power to the public?" asked one of the protest leaders, Nattawut Sai-kua, adding that the protesters are collecting signatures to call for the removal of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Australia resettles boat explosion survivors

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia will resettle 42 Afghan men who survived a boat explosion that killed five fellow asylum seekers in Australian waters in April, an official said on Monday. Police announced this month that passengers had deliberately set fire to their wooden vessel after it was intercepted by the Australian navy about 350 miles (600 kilometers) northwest of the Australian coastal city of Broome. But police said there was not enough evidence to charge any passenger. The survivors, several of whom were injured by the explosion, had been found to be genuine refugees "because of the situation in Afghanistan and the potential threat to their lives that existed in Afghanistan," Immigration Minister Chris Evans told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio on Monday.

World

Turkey bars Israel from military drill

JERUSALEM (AP)—Turkey has called off an international military drill because it opposed Israel's participation, Israeli defense officials said Sunday, a move that sent strained relations between the two nations to a new low.

Turkey has long been the Jewish state's best friend in the Muslim world. But ties have deteriorated dramatically since Israel's war last winter against Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip, which killed hundreds of civilians.

Turkey, a secular country ruled by an Islamic-oriented party, strongly condemned the Israeli offensive. Tensions soared after Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan stormed out of a high-profile conference where he confronted Israel's president over steep Palestinian civilian casualties.

Turkey's surprise cancellation of the air force drill, which was also to include the U.S. and NATO, was the first time its criticism of Israel has been translated into concrete action.

A brief statement posted on the Turkish military's Web site said the sixth annual Anatolia Eagle drill would take place Oct. 10-23, but that international participation had been canceled after "international negotiations conducted by the Turkish Foreign Ministry."

A Turkish government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, insisted that the decision was "due to a technical matter" rather than a political decision.

However, both Israeli and NATO officials confirmed the Turks had banned Israel from the drill. "The exercise has been postponed as a result of Turkey's decision to change the list of participating countries, thus excluding Israel," the army said in a statement.

Israeli officials said that in response to Turkey's decision against Israel, the U.S. pulled out of the exercise, forcing Ankara to cancel the drill. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media. There was no immediate U.S. comment.

The defense officials expressed disappointment with the decision. Beyond the diplomatic damage, they said the drill is an important training opportunity for Israeli pilots, who generally are confined to Israel's limited airspace.

Israeli officials are also concerned about Turkey's growing alliance with Iran. Israel considers Iran its greatest threat, citing Tehran's suspect nuclear program and its support for anti-Israel militant groups.

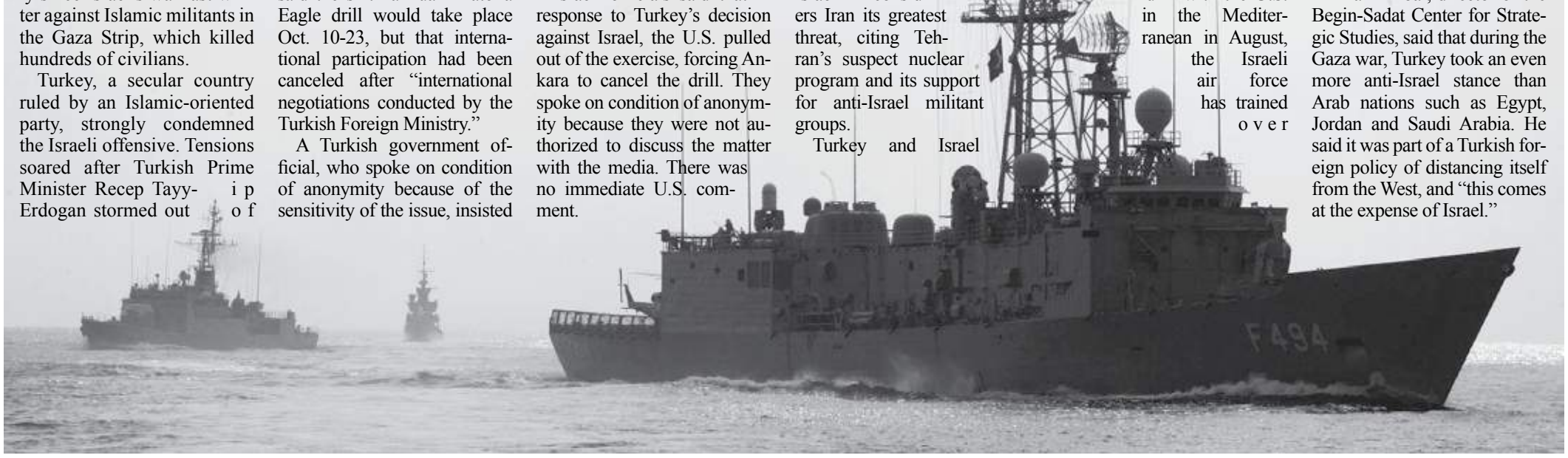
Turkey and Israel grew close in the mid-1990s, their alliance based on mutual fears of Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Israel has supplied hundreds of millions of dollars of military equipment to Turkey over the years and has renovated Turkish tanks and fighter planes.

The two countries have also conducted joint naval exercises, including a drill with the U.S. in the Mediterranean in August, the Israeli air force has trained over Turkish airspace and last year Turkey hosted months of indirect talks between Israel and Syria after an eight-year breakdown. Turkey is also a popular destination for Israeli tourists.

But since Erdogan's Islamic government came to power in 2003, Turkey's ties with Israel have cooled as it has grown closer to Iran, Syria and Hamas—the Islamic leaders of Gaza.

Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, said that during the Gaza war, Turkey took an even more anti-Israel stance than Arab nations such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He said it was part of a Turkish foreign policy of distancing itself from the West, and "this comes at the expense of Israel."



In this Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008 file photo, Turkish naval ships are seen in the Mediterranean Sea off the shore of the Israeli city of Haifa during a joint U.S., Israeli and Turkish military exercise. AP

Egypt's journalist union investigates Israeli ties

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's journalist union is investigating whether to expel a prominent member for meeting with the Israeli ambassador, a case that highlights the broad opposition to normal relations with Israel that persists despite a 30-year-old peace deal between the two countries.

Egyptian media often act as the standard bearers for anti-Israeli sentiment in the country, a practice that was in full display last month when reporters of all stripes echoed the cultural minister's claim that a Jewish conspiracy undermined his bid to lead the U.N. cultural agency.

Some reporters said Farouk Hosni's failed UNESCO bid likely fueled the decision by the Egyptian Journalists' Union to investigate Hala Mustafa, editor-in-chief of the state-run monthly magazine Democratiya. It is the first investigation of its kind even though the group has banned contact with Israelis for nearly 25 years.

Other factors also likely played a part, including lingering anger that the Egyptian government did not do more to stop the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip earlier this year that killed some 1,400 Palestinians, said Salah Eissa, a prominent writer and editor of the cultural weekly al-Qahira.

"The incursion in Gaza, the loss of UNESCO ... and the politics of an upcoming union election—it all added up," said Eissa.

Mustafa, who met with Israeli Ambassador Shalom Cohen in her office on Sept. 14, criticized the union, saying the ban against traveling to Israel or meeting with Israelis for work or personal reasons was "obsolete." The union will decide her fate on Tuesday.

"It's ridiculous not to have any contact with Israelis as a journalist," said Mustafa. "Many have done it before me."

She said Cohen visited her office to discuss a symposium they were organizing that would include Egyptian, American and Israeli participants.

"There is a reality on the ground that we have to deal with: we have a peace with Israel," said Mustafa. "If people want to boycott Israel, they should do so on an individual basis, but according to our law we have normal relations."

Priest who lived with leprosy now a saint

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A 19th-century priest whose courageous work with leprosy patients in Hawaii has been likened to the efforts of those battling the stigma of AIDS was elevated to sainthood Sunday by Pope Benedict XVI, along with four other Catholics he hailed as heroes of holiness.

Among the 10,000 pilgrims packing St. Peter's Basilica was Hawaii resident Audrey Toguchi, an 80-year-old retired school teacher whose recovery from lung cancer a decade ago stunned her doctor and was ruled a miracle by the Vatican.

Toguchi has credited her survival to praying to Belgium-born Jozef De Veuster, also known as Father Damien, who himself died from leprosy in 1889 after contracting the disease while working with ostracized patients living on Molokai island.

Some 40,000 faithful who couldn't fit inside the vast church filled St. Peter's Square on a warm, sunny morning. Many women from Hawaii wore headpieces made of roses and large beaded necklaces over floral-print loose gowns.

Among the five Benedict added to the church's roll call of saints is French nun Jeanne Jugan, who helped the elderly, including some abandoned by their families.

Series of car bombs kills 19 in western Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A spate of car bombings killed 19 people Sunday in Iraq's western Anbar province, once a hotbed of insurgency that later become a showcase for restoring peace.

The province was the scene of some of the most intense fighting by U.S. troops during the insurgency. Violence tapered off significantly after local tribes decided to align themselves with U.S. forces instead of al-Qaida in what is widely considered to be one of the key turning points of the Iraq war.

A reinvigorated insurgency in Anbar would pose a grave danger to Iraq's fragile stability as it prepares for crucial parliamentary elections early next year.

The explosions Sunday occurred in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province about 70 miles (115 kilometer) west of Baghdad. According to a local police official, a parked car first exploded near the Anbar province police headquarters and the provincial council building.

The second car bombing took place as police and bystanders rushed to the scene to help, while a third car exploded about an hour later at the gates to the Ramadi hospital, the police official said.

Police and hospital officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

One bystander, Musaab Ali Mohammed, said he was buying cigarettes from a nearby shop when he heard a big explosion and saw smoke billowing out from the parking lot.

"I saw police cars and firefighters, and they started to carry out the wounded and dead. ... Minutes later, a second explosion took place," he said.

Such explosions coming in quick succession are usually designed to target rescuers and security forces who rush to the scene to assist and were a hallmark of the insurgent group, Al-Qaida in Iraq, during the height of the insurgency.

WORLD BRIEFS

IRA splinter group renouncing violence in Ireland

DUBLIN (AP)—The Irish National Liberation Army, an IRA splinter group responsible for some of the most notorious killings of the Northern Ireland conflict, renounced violence Sunday and signaled it could hand over weapons soon to disarmament officials. Eleven years after calling a leaky cease-fire, the outlawed INLA said it would observe "exclusively peaceful means" and cooperate with Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain, leader of an international commission that oversees the disarmament of underground armies operating in both parts of Ireland. However, the INLA did not explicitly promise to disarm fully nor specify when the secretive process would start. The INLA-linked Irish Republican Socialist Party made the announcement at its annual parade near Dublin in honor of their movement's founder, Seamus Costello. He was shot to death by an Irish Republican Army member in the capital in October 1977.

Brazil: Intense blaze burns Sao Paulo slum

SAO PAULO (AP)—An intense fire broke out Sunday in a slum in South America's largest city, sending residents running across rooftops to escape the flames. There were no immediate reports of deaths in Diogo Pires, a small shantytown in western Sao Paulo that is home to about 300 families. Two people sought medical treatment for smoke inhalation, according to fire officials. Television broadcasts showed flames leaping 20 meters (65 feet) into the air as some residents fled and others helped firefighters battle the blaze with hoses and buckets of water. "The flames were huge. People screamed and quickly ran out of the community," resident Ana Paula Martiniano told Globo television.

Mugabe cronies dumped by state in torture case

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—A Zimbabwean official says several top officials and cronies of President Robert Mugabe being sued for torture have been renounced by the state and will not receive legal assistance. Deputy Attorney General Prince Machaya told The Associated Press on Sunday that the state will not represent officials being sued by prominent human rights activist Jestina Mukoko and eight others. The activists are seeking US$500 million for wrongful arrest, torture and abduction after their terror charges were dropped. The list of defendants includes the security and defense ministers and the police chief—all Mugabe loyalists.

Overdrive

RUMBLE SEAT
An eager and willing Mazda

LOS ANGELES TIMES
The 2010 Mazdaspeed3's feathery weight of 3,221 pounds translates to moments of big fun on the road.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
The 2010 Mazdaspeed3 is a car with excellent rear cargo storage, good fuel economy and a sticker price ($23,945 base MSRP) within reach.

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Look, the world needs some good news. Wars, the economy, swine flu. My God, Andrew Lloyd Webber is making a sequel to "Phantom of the Opera."

So now comes the 2010 Mazdaspeed3—which is the best-in-class compact-hatch Mazda3 stuffed with horsepower foie gras—and that, oppressed citizens, is an occasion for good cheer.

Here's a car with room for four adults and one magical halfling; a car with excellent rear cargo storage and good fuel economy; a car with a sticker price ($23,945 base MSRP) within reach of every waiter, barista and entry-level clerical whipping boy in the San Fernando Valley.

And it rips.

Powered by a fervid, phat-with-torque turbocharged four-cylinder engine (263 hp) and strung with a cat's cradle of stiff springs and struts, sticky 18-inch tires and big brakes, the Mazdaspeed3 can throw you around like a baggage handler at Los Angeles International Airport.

And may I say how refreshing it is to drive a sporty car that doesn't weigh 2 freaking tons? The Mazdaspeed3 weighs a feathery 3,221 pounds, and this relative freedom from mass translates to moments of hilarious fun on the road. The car is pitch-able, chuck-able, eager and willing.

Hook a 12-volt car battery to a Meyer lemon. Take a bite. That's what the Mazdaspeed3 feels like. Sweet, tart, electrifying.

Oh, but is it ugly. Hol-ee cats. What's the deal with that grille?

New for 2010, the Mazdaspeed3 (and the regular Mazda3) is fitted with this psychotic piece of plastic in the lower bumper clip, a toothless meth-hillbilly smile that cries out for nothing so much as a low-speed front collision. You'd have to tie a pork chop to the back bumper just to get dogs to chase it. You could put this car's picture on a box of Ex-Lax and sell it empty. Stop me if you've heard these ... .

In fairness, I should point out that in this segment—over-amped versions of compact transport drones, also known as "hot hatches"—a wart hoglike aesthetic rules. The Mitsubishi Evo, the Subaru WRX, Volkswagen GTI. None of these cars can get a date on their looks alone.

Inside the Mazdaspeed3, matters improve. The styling is restrained and contemporary, with overachieving finish materials and leathers and, at night, a faint techno-glow from the indirect lighting and jazzy instrumentation. One reason for the spare modernity of the instrument console is that many of the function switches have been relocated to the steering wheel. The seats and door panels are trussed up in kinetic-pattern cloth weave, which is great if you like your car to have a moire pattern.

The big glitch in the Mazda innards is the curious, if not downright crazy, location of the tiny multifunction-navigation display, stuffed under a binnacle near the windshield. I know it's a budget car and finding real estate in the dash console for a big display is a packaging challenge for designers. Still, this isn't a nav screen, it's an eye test.

Anyway, that's OK. One of the things about the Mazdaspeed3 I like is its embrace of character, its willingness to let a little raggedness show here and there in the cause of adrenaline. A good example is the way the computers talk to the engine. (This gets a bit geeky, so bear with me.)

The eternal struggle with front-drive cars is torque steer, which is the transient effect on steering of dumping a lot of torque into the front wheels, which also happen to steer the car. The more throttle and the greater the steering angle, the more pronounced the effect and the more the car wants to pull to the left or right. Mazda has taken all the usual steps to quell torque steer (equal-length half-shafts, limited-slip differential, beefy engine mounts, stiffer suspension, electric-power steering).

It has also taken the unusual step of tinkering with the engine programming. The car's computers actually dial back engine power in the first three gears a bit to smooth out the torque-steering effect. This throttle management doesn't null out torque steer altogether.

When you stand on the gas coming out of a corner, the Mazdaspeed3 can wander and waiver. But it tames it and even makes it entertaining.

One consequence is that if you hold the car at steady throttle through a corner, the engine will actually pick up revs all by itself as you unwind the wheel (that's the computer telling the engine that it's OK to bring on more power).

In-teresting.

On a country two-lane that would otherwise involve a lot of sawing at the wheel and gear-swapping, the Mazdaspeed3 is strangely refined and effortless, while still generating major sideways grip and utterly felonious pace. With the limited-slip differential busily chatting away between the front wheels, the Mazdaspeed3's point-and-squirt, corner-to-corner transitions are impeccable. Brake feel is excellent.

Another consequence: The Mazdaspeed3 is not neck-wrenching, rib-cracking quick in the short gears: 0-60 mph acceleration is about 6.4 seconds, almost two seconds slower than a Subaru WRX STi, for instance. But out on the unpatrolled interstate, just where you'd figure the little four-banger would feel soft in the kippers, the Mazdaspeed3 flat-out motors.

The styling is restrained and contemporary, with overachieving finish materials and leathers and, at night, a faint techno-glow from the indirect lighting and jazzy instrumentation. The big glitch inside is the location of the tiny multifunction/navigation display, stuffed under a binnacle near the windshield.

2010 MAZDASPEED3 SPECS

Base price: $23,945
Price, as tested: $25,840
Powertrain: Turbocharged and intercooled direct-injection 2.3-liter, 24-valve inline four-cylinder with variable valve timing; six-speed manual transmission; limited-slip differential front-wheel drive
Horsepower: 263 at 5,500 rpm
Torque: 280 pound-feet at 3,000 rpm
Curb weight: 3,221 pounds
0-60 mph: 6.4 seconds
Wheelbase: 103.9 inches
Overall length: 177.6 inches
EPA fuel economy: 18/25 mpg, city/highway
Final thoughts: Adrenaline is all it's cracked up to be.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Iconic Hummer brand sold to Chinese manufacturer

DETROIT (AP)—Hummer, the off-road vehicle that once epitomized America's love for hulking trucks, is now in the hands of a Chinese heavy equipment maker.

General Motors Co. and Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Corp. finally signed the much-anticipated deal for GM to sell the brand on Friday.

Tengzhong will get an 80 percent stake in the company, while Hong Kong investor Suolang Duoji, who indirectly owns a big stake in Tengzhong through an investment company, will get 20 percent. The investors will also get Hummer's nationwide dealer network.

Financial terms were not disclosed, although a person briefed on the deal said the sale price was around $150 million. The person did not want to be identified because the terms were being kept private. GM's bankruptcy filing last summer said that the brand with military roots could bring in $500 million or more.

Suolang Duoji also is the controlling shareholder and chairman of Lumena Resources Corp., a Hong Kong listed mining company.

GM and Tengzhong said in a statement that the transaction still must be approved by the U.S. and Chinese governments. Chinese regulators initially expressed reservations about Tengzhong's ability to run such an enterprise.

Hummer's current management team will stay with the new company, which will be headquartered either in Detroit or suburban Auburn Hills, Michigan.

James Taylor, the GM executive who has run Hummer recently, will remain as its chief executive officer.

Taylor said in an interview with The Associated Press that he knows resurrecting the brand will be difficult, but the key will be quickly rolling out more fuel-efficient models that get over 20 mpg.

"I'm not in any kind of denial that we have a very steep uphill challenge in front of us," Taylor said.

Hummer, he said, has been in a state "suspended animation" since June 2008 when GM announced it would be reviewed for sale or closure. Since then, its future has been uncertain and it got no marketing support or new products. Financing for leases, a big part of its luxury market, also dried up, Taylor said.

Still, GM sold 1,000 Hummers in some months, proving that buyers are out there.

"There's still a loyal customer base underneath there that loves Hummer," he said.

Hummer hopes to keep buying fuel-efficient engines and transmissions from GM, but can seek them elsewhere, Taylor said.

He said the brand has been unfairly tagged as a symbol of the American gas guzzler, saying other vehicles get worse mileage.

He wants to make sure "at least we aren't a victim of misinformation that we stand alone as the ultimate bad guy in the space, which we aren't."

Hummer, whose smallest model gets 16 miles per gallon (14.7 liters per 100 kilometers) in combined city and highway driving, sold well until the middle part of this decade when fuel prices began to rise. Sales peaked at 71,524 in 2006.

But only 8,193 Hummers have been sold in the U.S. through the first nine months of the year. That's down 64 percent from a year earlier. And only 426 Hummers were sold nationwide last month, according to Autodata Corp.

GM, which spent 40 days in bankruptcy protection during the summer and has received about $50 billion in U.S. government aid, also plans to sell its Saab brand and scrap Pontiac and Saturn as it tries to streamline its operations.

Life & Style

US lead in danger? Nobels tell a different story

STOCKHOLM (AP)—After cleaning up in the Nobel science prizes, the United States on Friday scored another coup: the peace prize for a president less than nine months in office.

At a time when some had begun to question how long America's pre-eminence in science and diplomacy could last, nine of the 11 nominees who won or shared this year's five prizes handed out so far are American.

On Monday, the economics prize will be announced, and Americans are the favorites.

The scientists were recognized for work that led to breakthroughs in cancer therapies and antibiotics, and brought the world digital photography and high-speed Internet. Obama won for his mission to rid the world of nuclear arms and to bridge the divide with the Muslim world.

He is the third sitting president, after Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, to win the prize. Jimmy Carter got it after he left office, as did former Vice President Al Gore. No country comes closer to boasting so many leaders with Nobel laurels.

AP

A Kenyan driver buys the local daily newspaper showing the headlines in Nairobi Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009 following the announcement Friday awarding US President Obama the Nobel peace prize for 2009.

Obama's triumph capped a giddy week for Nobel-watchers in which the big U.S. disappointment was in literature. After great expectations for Philip Roth or Joyce Carol Oates, the prize went to Herta Mueller, a Romanian-born German author.

The chief of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences sees two big reasons for the U.S. dominance in science: money and ambition.

Gunnar Oquist, permanent secretary of the group that picks the chemistry and physics winners, cited a U.S. willingness to pour money into research and an eye for the big breakthrough, as opposed to incremental steps forward.

"In Europe, they are focusing on high production with good enough quality," he told The Associated Press Wednesday.

However, Alan Leshner, chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, noted that Nobels are generally given for work that's a decade old or more, and that the U.S. mustn't become complacent.

U.S. strength reflects federal financial support since World War II, but it has flattened out or declined while other countries are investing heavily in their own scientific research, he said.

"The United States probably will not lose its eminence in science in the coming years, but its pre-eminence, its dominance is, of course, at risk as other countries make their own investments," he said.

While Americans lag in categories such as literature, they hold more than 40 percent of the physics, chemistry and medicine awards.

Jeremy Berg, director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, said ample federal money gives American scientists confidence they can tackle daunting, long-term problems without feeling pressured to produce fast results or lose funding. Obama has said he wants to boost investment in science.

Gunnar Karlstrom, a chemistry professor at Lund University in Sweden, said high salaries for researchers make the U.S. attractive to foreign scientists.

Ulf Lagerkvist, professor of medical biochemistry at the University of Gothenburg, insisted that even though the prizes may have been awarded to many U.S. citizens, the award is in fact "to a very high degree international."

"The Americans have proven very good at recruiting from around the whole world," he said, noting that they offer both better research opportunities and funding.

"It's incredibly much easier to get money from the American Congress than it is from equivalent institutions in Europe," he said.

Europe and Asia have their share of Nobel Prizes, but of the 816 winners since the first awards were made in 1901, 309 have been American. The next closest is Britain, with some 114 winners.

The Nobel Foundation keeps no official tally of citizenships since laureates often have more than one.

Berg, the American, noted that other countries have begun to build up their own scientific establishments, and could well enlarge their share of prizes.

"It's the science that's important, and the fact that there are more countries investing in it, I think, is a great thing," Berg said.

The European Union's executive body has weighed in on the debate. A new EU-commissioned report says Europe lags well behind Japan and the U.S. in funding for research and development as well as higher education. It suggests targets for 2030 of more than doubling research and development funding to 5 percent of gross domestic product, and tripling spending on higher education to 3.3 percent of GDP.

It says EU countries too often prefer funding projects within their borders instead of contributing to others with bigger potential.

A bruising 'Oleanna' tackles political correctness

NEW YORK (AP)—Get ready to be infuriated again. Or, at the very least, intrigued.

The linguistic pyrotechnics of playwright David Mamet are on full display in the bruising Broadway revival of "Oleanna," which opened Sunday at the Golden Theatre. It's Mamet's incendiary take on the consequences of political correctness—specifically involving sexual harassment—and how language helps to facilitate the battle.

The play caused quite a stir when it was staged off-Broadway in 1992. And there's no reason to expect that this fine new production won't generate a similar response, even among people who saw it some 17 years ago. That's when the then still-smoldering case of Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill—involving her accusations of sexual harassment by the Supreme Court nominee and his claims of a "high-tech lynching"—made the two-character drama feel as if it were ripped from current headlines.

In "Oleanna," we are in the rarefied world of academia. Designer Neil Patel provides a genteel display of Victorian buildings beyond the large windows in a college professor's office where the verbal sparring—and more—take place.

In one corner: John, a nervous, distracted teacher, played by Bill Pullman, anxiously awaiting tenure and the closing on a new house. In the other: Carol, one of his female students, portrayed by Julia Stiles, struggling with his course yet fiercely protective of her rights and those of her unnamed "group," perhaps a collection of vigilant feminists. It's not entirely clear, which is one of the weird, unanswered questions in Mamet's play.

AP

In this theater publicity image released by The Publicity Office, Bill Pullman, left, and Julia Stiles are shown in a scene from the Broadway revival of David Mamet's "Oleanna," now playing at the Golden Theatre in New York.

Pullman's professor is distracted and disheveled, a man eager to help this young woman and not realizing, at first, how his seemingly innocuous comments will be interpreted. Stiles' student is wary and more than a bit angry, a scowl plastered across her face. Therein lie the ingredients of Mamet's inflammatory cat-and-mouse game.

"Oleanna" is a fiendishly difficult play to pull off, but Pullman and Stiles, under the precise, careful direction of Doug Hughes, make the most of Mamet's seemingly imprecise language. The dialogue is full of starts, stops and backtracks that, bit by bit, build to an explosive climax.

Pullman's open demeanor, a countenance that morphs into desperation, is just right for this professor, whose world—academic, financial and personal—is unraveling around him. And Stiles' icy demeanor is tinged with a hint of sexual awareness, a clarity of purpose despite the woman's claims that she is lost in the professor's class.

"Oleanna" does its best to rattle everyone, the characters on stage as well as the theatergoers. What's more, the constant interruption of the professor's telephone not only makes him jumpy, but the audience as well. Maybe more so these days because in 2009 the ringing of cell phones has become a ubiquitous annoyance at just about every theatrical event.

"Oleanna" is about the use of power as well. And, in this case, the professor, by virtue of his title, holds the upper hand, at least at the beginning of the evening. What makes the play so fascinating is to watch that authority slowly slip away and see what happens when words just won't do.

Mamet's penchant for obscure titles—"Speed-the-Plow" anyone?—also is on display in "Oleanna." The title apparently refers to an old folk song and to a planned utopian community that never was built. Is a harmonious relationship between man and woman impossible to achieve? Judging from the results on view at the Golden Theatre, "uneasy" might be the best that can be achieved.

Harvard to digitize 51,000 rare Chinese books

AP

An extremely rare 1897 small one dollar overprint on a three cents Chinese Red Revenue stamp is displayed during an auction preview by Zurich Asia in Hong Kong Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009.

BOSTON (AP)—One of the most extensive collections of rare Chinese books outside China will be freely available as Harvard University has agreed to digitize the titles.

Representatives from the Harvard College Library and the National Library of China signed a deal Friday to digitize more than 51,000 volumes in the Harvard collection. Some are more than 1,000 years old.

All the rare books are held at the Harvard-Yenching Library. They will be examined to identify those that are fragile, damaged or sewn in a way that hides text along the binding margin.

Harvard technicians have been designing new equipment as they prepare to begin the six-year project in January.

Officials have not disclosed the cost, saying only that it's a multimillion-dollar project.

Gately, of Irish boy band Boyzone, dies in Spain

AP

In this May 8, 2008 file photo, Stephen Gately poses for photographs with other members of Irish band Boyzone, not pictured, as they arrive at the Caudwell Children's Charity Legends Ball in London, Britain.

PORT D'ANDRATX, Mallorca (AP)—Stephen Gately, a singer with the Irish boy band Boyzone who made headlines when he came out as gay a decade ago, has died while on vacation in Spain, the group said on its Web site. He was 33.

Gately "tragically died" on Saturday while visiting the island of Mallorca, the band said in a brief statement. The cause of death was not immediately clear.

Gerald Kean, a Gately family friend in Ireland, said Sunday the singer died of natural causes, without identifying them.

"There's no foul play involved, and it's not suicide. It's just a tragic accident is what we've been told, and we're happy that that is correct information," Kean said. "There is nothing untoward. It's not drugs, we don't believe. It's not suicide. It's not murder. It's not a fight. That's what we've been told."

Kean said an autopsy was expected to be conducted Tuesday.

Gately and his partner Andrew Cowles, who were wed in a civil union in 2006, were in Mallorca together, the band's statement said.

"At present we don't have too many details," the statement said. Members of the group were expected to arrive at Palma de Mallorca international airport Sunday afternoon.

Spanish police said they were called to a house near Port d'Andratx on the western tip of the island on Saturday afternoon. The cause of death was unknown and there were no signs of violence, a police spokesman said, on condition of anonymity in keeping with police rules. He said there was likely to be an autopsy.

The house, situated on an exclusive tree-lined seafront street, overlooks a rocky bay reputed to have some of the best sunset views on Spain's favorite holiday island.

By midday Sunday journalists had begun to gather outside the quiet, seaside building with several vacation apartments.

Boyzone members Ronan Keating, Keith Duffy, Mikey Graham and Shane Lynch said they were "completely devastated by the loss of our friend and brother, Stephen."

"We have shared such wonderful times together over the years and were all looking forward to sharing many more. Stephen was a beautiful person in both body and spirit. He lit up our lives and those of the many friends he had all over the world. Our love and sympathy go out to Andrew and Stephen's family. We love you and will miss you forever, 'Steo'," their statement said.

Boyzone was a U.K. hitmaker in the 1990s and announced a comeback tour at the end of last year. Gately also had released several solo singles and appeared in stage musicals, including "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

He revealed his sexual orientation to a British newspaper in 1999.

Elton John said Sunday that he and his partner, David Furnish, were "stunned by this tragedy."

"Stephen was the kindest, gentlest soul. We send our love and condolences to his partner Andy and to all his friends everywhere," John said in a statement.

Boyzone was one of the biggest acts to come out of Ireland in the 1990s. Former Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said Gately's death was "a huge tragedy to Irish entertainment, Irish music and further afield as well."

"Boyzone and Stephen, they've all been part of Irish life and far wider than that, the last 15 years, and so successful, so it's a huge, huge tragedy. It's so sad," Ahern said.

Boyzone sold millions of records and topped the British charts with six No. 1 singles during the 1990s, including "All That I Need" and a cover of the Bee Gees' "Words."

The group was formed in 1993 by impresario Louis Walsh, who placed an ad in the press announcing auditions for Ireland's first boy band. Among the unsuccessful hopefuls was actor Colin Farrell.

Message of Gratitude

"MANUEL ABANTO JARDINERO"

We wish to express our humble and sincere gratitude for the love, prayers and support extended to our family during this difficult time. May God bless you all for your kindness, and grant you the peace that passes all understanding.

The Jardinero family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Congressman Herman Tudela Palacios

of San Antonio, Saipan was called to rest in Honolulu, Hawaii by our Heavenly father at the age of 66.
November 01, 1942 — October 01, 2009

Pre-Deceased:

Grand Daughter:	†Judy Ann Aldan Palacios
Father:	†Joaquin Muna Palacios
Mother:	†Francisca Camacho Tudela Palacios
Father-in-law:	†Clifford William Cave
Reared-father:	†Eugene San Nicolas
Brother:	†Augustin Tudela Palacios
Sister:	†Rosario Tudela Palacios
Brother:	†Manuel Tudela Palacios
Sister-in-law:	†Betty Ann S.N. Cave
Sister-in-law:	†Arlene Castillo
Sister-in-law:	†Maria A. Muna
Brother-in-law:	†Esteban I. Pangelinan
Brother-in-law:	†Blane Martinez
Niece:	†Denise Palacios Tenorio

Lovingly Survived by his Wife: Joycelyn San Nicolas Cave Palacios

Children & Spouse:

Katrina Marie & Hillary C. Tagabuel
- Hilarie Lashae, Larry Marc (Destiny Denise & Danielle Coleen), Shelmalyne (Kristan Jacob & Kurtis Lance), and Leina Marie

Troy Murphy & Antonette Aldan
- Tim K. Palacios (ex-wife) - Adrienne Jade, Krystine Jayleen
- Etholyn Cox - Justin Troy
- Antonette Aldan (Fiance)- Christy Joy, Alicia Janine

Judd Donahue (Jay) & Nancy Takahashi Palacios
- Noah Triston

Betty Ann & John Joseph (J.J.) Cabrera
- Alexis Shawnee, Aysha Shania

Douglas McGarrett & Teresa Ulloa Palacios
- Chelsea, Sina Ha'ani, Tiara, Ezekiel

Mother-in-law: Rosario Delgado San Nicolas Cave
Reared-Mother: Anna San Augustine San Nicolas

Siblings:
Esperanza Ulloa Palacios & Family
Daniel T. Palacios & Family
Susan P. /John Ira Schwarz & Family
Connie P. Pangelinan (Kidney Donor) & Family

As well as numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren extended family and friends.

Brother- in-Laws & Spouse:
Danny/Chris Cave & Family
David Cave & Kids
Timothy/Lina Cave & Family
Lawrence (Larry) & Valarie Cave
Leonard Cave & Kids

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."
—Proverbs 23:2-3

Sister-in-laws & Spouse:
June/Rip Respicio & Family
Jennylou C. & Family
Judy C. & Clifford Castillo, Family
Sandra C. & Paul Dosey, Family

Special Thanks to
Roger Rosario, Helen Capati, Romer Gomez, Dionicio Malicdem

Nightly Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm. His remains will arrive on October 15, 2009 at 2:30pm and will be escorted from the airport to Cabrera's Funeral Home, followed by a one hour viewing. On October 17, 2009 at 7:30am his remains will be escorted from Cabrera's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral. The mass will be offered at 11:00am followed by a Christian Burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated

Joyce C. Palacios, children and families

Fans check in for 'Couples Retreat' with $35.3M

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

"Swingers" co-stars Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau buddied up for the weekend's top movie as "Couples Retreat" debuted with $35.3 million, while the micro-budgeted fright flick "Paranormal Activity" leaped into the top 10.

Shot for a reported $15,000, "Paranormal Activity" came in at No. 5 with $7.1 million as distributor Paramount expanded it into daylong release after two weeks of midnight-only screenings.

"Paranormal Activity" played in narrow release of just 160 cinemas, a fraction of the theater count for other top movies. It averaged a whopping $44,163 a theater, compared with $11,780 in 3,000 theaters for "Couples Retreat."

"You almost do a double take when you look at that theater count for a movie in the top five," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "That's amazing. That's unprecedented."

"Couples Retreat" exceeded expectations for distributor Universal Pictures, which had hoped the movie would top the $20 million range. The solid opening came just days after Universal replaced top managers Marc Shmuger and David Linde with Adam Fogelson and Donna Langley, who were promoted from other jobs within the studio.

The management shake-up followed a summer of slim pickings at the box office for Universal, which released the Will Ferrell dud "Land of the Lost" and such commercial underachievers as Adam Sandler's "Funny People" and Jennifer Aniston's "Love Happens."

AP
Vince Vaughn, left, and Faizon Love, cast members in "Couples Retreat," pose together at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles, Monday, Oct. 5, 2009.

"I feel pretty good today. Happy to have a hit," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "It happened at the right time, because it did lift our spirits, having the summer we had."

Along with Vaughn and Favreau, whose collaborations include last year's holiday hit "Four Christmases," "Couples Retreat" features Jason Bateman, Kristin Davis, Kristen Bell and Malin Akerman in a tale of friends at an island therapy resort.

"Paranormal Activity" was acquired by former Paramount partner DreamWorks at 2007's Slamdance Film Festival with the idea that writer-director Oren Peli would re-shoot it on a bigger budget.

But after audiences responded well to a test screening, Paramount decided to sneak "Paranormal Activity" out in a manner befitting its raw, independent roots. The studio began two weekends ago with midnight screenings in 13 cities, the movie building buzz online much as "The Blair Witch Project" did 10 years ago.

Like "Blair Witch," "Paranormal Activity" is fiction shot in documentary style as a young man tries to record strange doings and apparitions in the house he shares with his girlfriend.

Fans talked it up on Twitter and Facebook, while the movie expanded to more cities based on which markets received the most requests to see it on a Web site Paramount set up. This past weekend's 46 markets were heavy on big cities, but mid-sized cities such as Norfolk, Va., also made the cut as fans there voted to bring the movie.

"We all spend a lot of time talking about Facebook and Twitter and our ability to communicate. Here's a case where it allows people to rally around a movie they care about and for them to have a sense of participation, then tell other people, 'Hey, this is something you should see, too,'" said Rob Moore, Paramount vice chairman.

According to Paramount, "Paranormal Activity" had a record weekend for a movie playing in fewer than 200 theaters, surpassing the $3.7 million haul for "Platoon" in 174 theaters early in its run in 1987. Factoring in today's higher prices for movie tickets, which average nearly twice as much as in 1987, "Paranormal Activity" sold about the same number of tickets as "Platoon."

Including its take from midnight screenings the previous two weeks, "Paranormal Activity" has grossed $8.3 million. Paramount plans to expand it to several hundred more theaters next weekend, again adding new markets based on where it gets the most requests.

Sony's "Zombieland," the No. 1 movie the previous weekend, slipped to second place with $15 million, raising its total to $47.8 million.

In limited release, the acclaimed British drama "An Education" opened strongly with $162,381 in four theaters for an average of $40,595 a cinema.

1. "Couples Retreat," $35.3 million.
2. "Zombieland," $15 million.
3. "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," $12 million.
4. "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" in 3-D, $7.7 million.
5. "Paranormal Activity," $7.1 million.
6. "Surrogates," $4.1 million.
7. "The Invention of Lying," $3.4 million.
8. "Whip It," $2.8 million.
9. "Capitalism: A Love Story," $2.7 million.
10. "Fame," $2.6 million.

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The Informant
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Scott Bakula
Spy, Black Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
What was Mark Whitacre thinking? A rising star at agri-industry giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Whitacre suddenly turns whistleblower. Even as he exposes his company's multi-national price-fixing conspiracy to the FBI, Whitacre envisions himself being hailed as a hero of the common man and handed a promotion. But before all that can happen, the FBI needs evidence, so Whitacre eagerly agrees to wear a wire and carry a hidden tape recorder in his briefcase, imagining himself as a kind of de facto secret agent.

★ ★ ★

I Can Do Bad All By Myself
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
When Madea, a pistol-packing grandma, catches sixteen-year-old Jennifer and her two younger brothers looting her home, she decides to take matters into her own hands and delivers the young delinquents to the only relative they have: their aunt April. A heavy-drinking nightclub singer who lives off of Raymond, her married boyfriend, April wants nothing to do with the kids. But her attitude begins to change when Sandino, a handsome Mexican immigrant looking for work, moves into April's basement room.

Fame
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG
Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Pandorum
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Chinese directors pay tribute to quake-hit city

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—In the same style as the anthology films "New York, I Love You" and "Paris, I Love You," two Chinese filmmakers have profiled a Chinese city that was hit by a massive earthquake last year.

"Chengdu, I Love You" was conceived as a tribute to the southwestern city in Sichuan province that was decimated by a 7.9-magnitude quake in May 2008, leaving nearly 90,000 people dead or missing, Hong Kong director Fruit Chan said.

Chan, who was promoting the film at South Korea's Pusan International Film Festival, said he teamed with Chinese rocker Cui Jian and South Korea's Hur Jin-ho to tell three stories set in Chengdu. Hur, however, pulled his contribution — a South Korean expatriate's love story — leaving only Chan's and Cui's. Hur will release his material separately, as a feature-length film.

Chan's story, set in 1976, follows a tea-making master who falls in love with his apprentice. Cui's, set in 2029, is about the relationship between a man and his savior during the 2008 earthquake.

Chan, known for his movies about Hong Kong's working class, said he wanted to show Chengdu through its famous tea houses.

AP
Hong Kong director Fruit Chan poses next to his move poster "Chengdu, I Love You" during an interview with the Associated Press during the Pusan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea, Sunday, Oct. 11. 2009.

"My biggest discovery is that Sichuan people are quite laid back. That's why there are so many tea houses. It's like having dim sum in Hong Kong, but while Hong Kong people are in a hurry, Sichuan people talk for a long time. They have a lot to talk about," he said.

He added that Chengdu residents "knew how to enjoy life outside of making a living."

But Chan said he found Chengdu's landscape somewhat limiting because of its rapid development and destruction of old buildings.

"Once the new buildings settle in after 10 or 20 years, then there will be some texture. But right now it's developing very quickly. So it was hard to shoot because we couldn't find good locations," he said.

Chan's other credits include "Made in Hong Kong," "The Longest Summer," "Little Cheung" and "Hollywood Hong Kong."

Singer says he may make another 'X-Men' movie

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—Bryan Singer said Sunday he's interested in making another "X-Men" movie and has discussed the possibility with Twentieth Century Fox.

The American director made "X-Men" and "X2: X-Men United," but passed on the third installment so he could make "Superman Returns." ''Rush Hour" director Brett Ratner ended up shooting that film, "X-Men: The Last Stand." South African filmmaker Gavin Hood made another spin-off, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," which was released earlier this year.

"I'm still looking to possibly returning to the 'X-Men' franchise. I've been talking to Fox about it," Singer said at a talk at South Korea's Pusan International Film Festival.

"I love Hugh Jackman. I love the cast," he said, referring to the Australian actor who plays Wolverine.

Singer said he enjoyed making science fiction and fantasy movies because they allowed him to discuss serious issues through entertainment. He said the "X-Men" series, which follows a group of mutants with superpowers who struggle to fit in with humans, is about tolerance and social structures.

He said he likes to "trick audiences into thinking they're seeing fireworks, but they're learning about themselves and listening to what I have to say."

"The excitement about working in science fiction and fantasy is — the stories, if they are good, are about the human condition," Singer said.

Appearing at a panel discussion with South Korean director Kim Ji-woon, the American director also said he appreciated the creative freedom South Korean filmmakers enjoyed to make the final cut, compared to Hollywood, where directors must negotiate with studio executives.

Hollywood movie budgets are so high that "the risk is too great to leave it in the hands of a filmmaker," he said, adding that he "has a responsibility to help studios feel secure in their investments."

Singer made his name with the 1995 critically acclaimed thriller "The Usual Suspects" but later earned a strong following among comic books fans for his adaptations of popular comic book series.

AP

American director Bryan Singer talks in the Open Talks during the Pusan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea, Sunday, Oct. 11. 2009.

Buddies Damon, Affleck are also distant relatives

AP

In this July 2, 2008 file photo, Matt Damon, left, and Ben Affleck arrive at the Ante Up For Africa charity poker tournament during the World Series of Poker at the Rio hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

BOSTON (AP)—It seems Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are more than childhood pals and Hollywood collaborators.

According to the New England Genealogical Society, they're also cousins. Tenth cousins, once removed, that is.

Society researchers dug up evidence that both Damon and Affleck are descended from William Knowlton Jr. He was a bricklayer who came to the U.S. from England in the 1630s and settled in Ipswich.

The society said Friday that Affleck has lots of other famous relatives, including 16 U.S. presidents—Barack Obama among them—and the late Princess Diana.

Affleck and Damon were friends growing up in the Boston area and teamed up as writers and co-stars for the 1997 film "Good Will Hunting."

'Mad Men' star fights planned NY sanitation garage

NEW YORK (AP)—"Mad Men" star John Slattery says not in my back yard.

The actor, who plays advertising executive Roger Sterling on the hit television drama, is fighting plans to build a $346 million sanitation department building in his Manhattan neighborhood.

New York City officials say the new building on Spring Street will get trucks off the street and into a garage and will provide the trucks direct access to the West Side Highway.

But Slattery says his neighbors are worried about pedestrian safety, with garbage trucks expected to add hundreds of visits to the neighborhood each day.

A spokesman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the New York Daily News the city plans to free up nearby space currently used by the sanitation department and convert that space into parkland.

Jackson's glove, Elvis' guitar sold at auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An illuminating glove worn by Michael Jackson during the 1984 Victory Tour has brought in $70,800 at an auction of entertainment memorabilia.

A bidder paid $106,200 for a Martin D-28 guitar played by Elvis Presley during his final Las Vegas peformance.

They were among dozens of items from Hollywood and the music industry sold at an auction in Los Angeles by Profiles in History. The auction house says it sold about $5 million in memorabilia Thursday and Friday.

A bullwhip swung by Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" went for $56,050 and full-scale Velociraptor model from "Jurassic Park" brought in $76,700.

AP

A guitar that belonged to US entertainer Elvis Presley, an Alden Solid body copper/bronze finish guitar produced circa 1958 derived from the Harmony H44 Stratatone.

Wife's suspicions are raised by husband's many secrets

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married nearly a year. My husband and I were together for five years before that. I am his fourth wife.

What's bothering me is he gets most of his mail delivered to his mother's—things such as his cell phone bill, his paychecks, etc. Everything he owns is in storage in another country. He makes all his phone calls from work and never receives any at home.

I saw his credit report. He has taken out loans I know nothing about.

I love my husband with all my heart, but am I right to think a marriage isn't supposed to be this way? I feel he has two lives.

IN THE DARK IN TENNESSEE

DEAR IN THE DARK: I don't know how many lives your husband is living, but the answer to your question is no, a marriage is not supposed to be the way yours is. Your husband's behavior is unusually secretive—and when people are secretive, it is usually because they have something to hide.

There are many red flags in your letter, and because of that I'm advising you to talk to an attorney and find out how loans taken out without your knowledge could affect you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend gets weirded out and angry when I hold my kids from a previous marriage in my lap and want her to be close to me at the same time. She says it's "gross and inappropriate."

She acts like I am trying to be sexual with her, but I'm not —I'm just trying to have her near me while I'm sitting on the couch with my children. She says I should only be affectionate with them and her separately.

Am I the one with the problem here, or what?

DAD IN LAKEWOOD, WASH.

DEAR DAD: Your girlfriend may feel competitive with your children, or she may have something in her personal history that makes it difficult for her to differentiate between paternal affection and sexual closeness between adults. If you want concrete answers from her, you need to discuss this subject more fully with her so she can explain why she feels the way she does, because it's odd.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Since my daughter left home several years ago, I have become extremely anxious on Sundays. In the afternoons it feels like the walls are closing in on me. I feel so depressed I have to leave the house.

If I go someplace that is open and unconfined, with lots of people around, I feel fine. When I return to my house in the early evening and dote on my pets, I get back to feeling normal.

Abby, some people have said I suffer from "empty nest syndrome." Others say it's "cabin fever." Any thoughts on what I can do about this?

PHIL IN PHOENIX

DEAR PHIL: If your daughter left on a Sunday, that may be the reason you become depressed and anxious on that particular day of the week. Or because you are less busy and distracted on Sundays, you become more aware of the fact you are alone. Whether you're experiencing "empty nest syndrome" or "cabin fever" is irrelevant. Discuss your feelings of depression and claustrophobia with a licensed mental health professional so you can be properly diagnosed and receive help for your problem.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

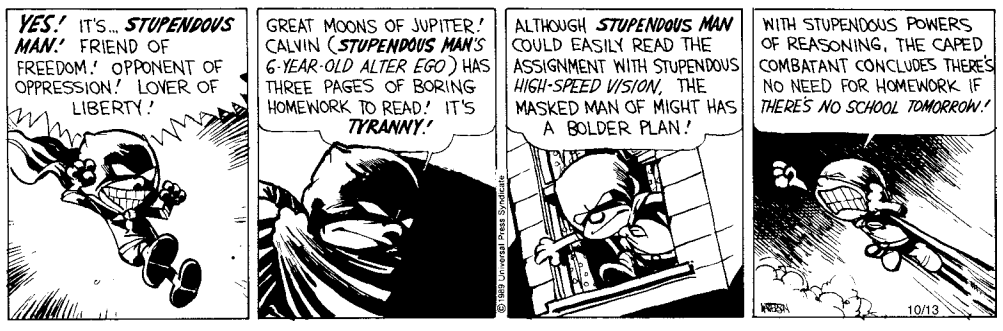
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YES! IT'S... STUPENDOUS MAN! FRIEND OF FREEDOM! OPPONENT OF OPPRESSION! LOVER OF LIBERTY!
GREAT MOONS OF JUPITER! CALVIN (STUPENDOUS MAN'S 6-YEAR-OLD ALTER EGO) HAS THREE PAGES OF BORING HOMEWORK TO READ! IT'S TYRANNY!
ALTHOUGH STUPENDOUS MAN COULD EASILY READ THE ASSIGNMENT WITH STUPENDOUS HIGH-SPEED VISION, THE MASKED MAN OF MIGHT HAS A BOLDER PLAN!
WITH STUPENDOUS POWERS OF REASONING, THE CAPED COMBATANT CONCLUDES THERE'S NO NEED FOR HOMEWORK IF THERE'S NO SCHOOL TOMORROW!
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10/13

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I CALLED LIZ. SHE SAID SHE'D PICK UP HER PURSE IN THE MORNING
JIM DAVIS 10-13
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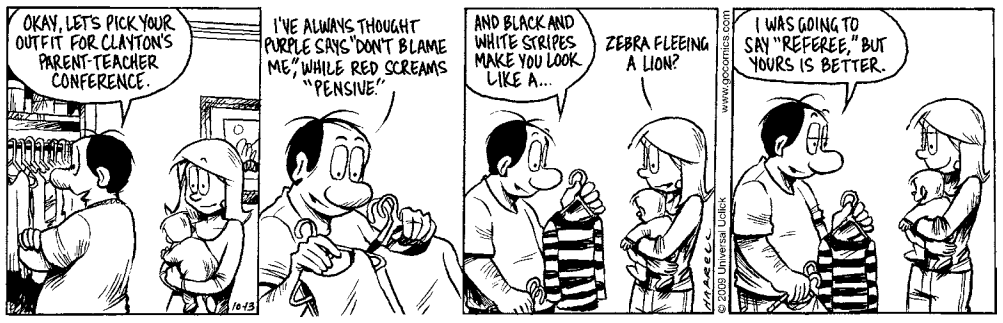
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE
DON'T WE HAVE A LEAD-LINED BOX OR SOMETHING?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, LET'S PICK YOUR OUTFIT FOR CLAYTON'S PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT PURPLE SAYS "DON'T BLAME ME," WHILE RED SCREAMS "PENSIVE."
AND BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A...
ZEBRA FLEEING A LION?
I WAS GOING TO SAY "REFEREE," BUT YOURS IS BETTER.
10/13
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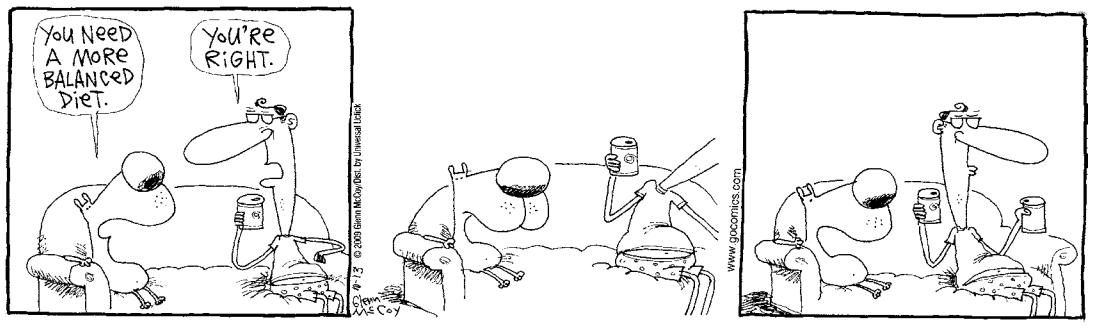
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Call a halt to
5 Bashful
8 Barrel
12 End of a melody
13 Caustic solution
14 Lotion additive
15 Comic-strip pub habitue
17 Undraped
18 Wrong (Pref.)
19 Insepa-rable
20 Madison Avenue worker
21 Droop
22 Distort
23 Dazzling display
26 Let the air out
30 Hoodlum
31 Scarlet
32 Met melody
33 Legend-ary clarinetist
35 Go in
36 Sweet potato
37 See 3-Down
38 Correct
41 — Lanka
42 Copper head?
45 Margarine
46 1977 James Taylor hit
48 Pebbles' pet
49 Clay, today
50 In the thick of
51 Go looking for
52 Links prop
53 Cookware

DOWN
1 Swindle
2 Morrison or Collette
3 With 37-Across and 44-Down, miscel-lany
4 Remuner-ation
5 Word on the street?
6 Advertise bombasti-cally
7 "Uh-huh"
8 Game played with "ginger-bread pawns"
9 Astringent
10 Pop
11 Acute
16 Outer layer
20 "Bow-wow!"
21 New Jersey peninsula
22 Marry
23 Ovum
24 Bill's partner
25 Privy
26 Lair
27 Illustra-tions
28 Dead heat
29 Listener
31 Aries
34 Yoga surface
35 Oklahoma city
37 Golfer Palmer, to fans
38 Scepters
39 Nastase of tennis lore
40 Kelly or Krupa
41 Store event
42 Bullets
43 Worm, maybe
44 See 3-Down
46 Chapeau
47 Shrill bark

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	E	F			A	P	T		M	A	M	A
A	V	O	W		L	E	I		O	R	E	S
N	I	C	E		L	A	M		N	I	G	H
G	L	I	N	T		L	I	M	E			
			T	A	R		D	R	Y	R	O	T
P	A	L	O	M	A	R		S	T	O	V	E
I	C	O	N		N	E	T		O	P	E	N
E	R	A	S	E		D	I	S	S	E	N	T
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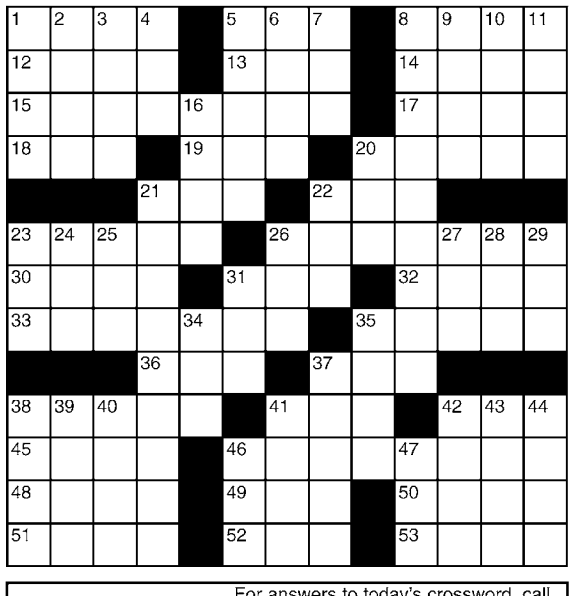
			R	U	I	N		W	A	G	O	N
D	E	L	I		M	O	B		R	O	L	E
A	M	O	K		B	U	Y		E	R	I	E
D	U	P	E		O	N	E			E	N	D

Yesterday's answer 10-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashanti, 29; Jerry Rice, 47; Marie Osmond, 50; Chris Carter, 53

Happy Birthday: You can move mountains this year if you put your mind to it. Accomplishments will start at home and work their way into your personal and professional life. You'll be freed from some of the limitations and frustrations of the past. Changes with older and younger people in your life will occur. Good times are ahead if you stop procrastinating. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 28, 31, 39, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If a deal sounds too good, you need to do more homework. Don't let anyone put you in a position that makes you feel awkward about saying no. Take a safe route that will ensure you can afford the things you want in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You won't win if you decide to openly argue and you may even damage your reputation with people witnessing events as they unfold. Stubbornness will be your downfall. Don't try to manipulate to get your way. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The people around you will appreciate you for your friendship and all the help and inspiration you bring with you. Be prepared to let a friend lean on you, offering reassurance, suggestions and support. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A lazy attitude can lead to trouble. You may not feel much like contributing but, if you don't, you will end up being left out of something that you might enjoy or an opportunity to make a little extra cash. Money is heading your way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't trust what's being said. Someone may not want to hurt your feelings or put up with your response should you be told the truth. You'll have to find out for yourself and make a judgment call that will change the relationship you have with someone. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can't leave anything important up to someone else. You will be disappointed in the way others do things and will probably be denied something you want badly if your contribution doesn't reflect your unique style. Being responsible is half the battle. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take part and you will not be denied the position you want. Your ability to represent others will help you gain popularity. The more you involve yourself in the decision-making, the more control you will have for your future. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Not everyone will get what you are trying to accomplish. Don't let others' lack of understanding unnerve you or make you jump into something that's not right for you. You can't count on things unfolding the way you imagine. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to be ready to take on anything and everything. Multitasking will be a must but the results will be spectacular. Adventure awaits you if you dive into every opportunity that comes your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A contract someone is offering will not be in your best interest. Don't feel pressured to get involved. Emotional matters concerning an elder in your family will get blown out of proportion, leaving you responsible. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You won't want to budge but stubbornness can lead to error. You will discover how much easier it is to get along with others if you compromise. Being offensive will not solve the problem—it will only bring more opposition. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Nothing will be too great or difficult for you to solve. Your astute observations coupled with a detailed approach will bring results. Mixing business with pleasure will add to your success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You see the big picture and are willing to fight for what you want. You are engaging, creative and unique in your approach.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	3	1				5	6	2
4								9
	8			3			7	
			3		2			
		2		5		3		
			1		8			
	5			6			2	
8								1
2	1	6				9	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	1	6	9	7	5	2	4
7	5	2	4	3	8	9	6	1
9	6	4	2	1	5	3	7	8
1	2	9	3	8	6	4	5	7
3	8	5	7	4	2	6	1	9
6	4	7	1	5	9	8	3	2
2	9	8	5	6	1	7	4	3
5	1	3	8	7	4	2	9	6
4	7	6	9	2	3	1	8	5

Difficulty Level ★ 10/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS **Solution: 5 letters**

B	D	G	E	T	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	K	S
R	E	N	R	H	T	S	E	T	C	L	O	A	N	S
I	B	I	N	E	C	D	S	A	S	C	H	O	O	L
L	A	N	D	O	A	I	R	G	T	C	I	N	W	O
L	T	I	E	R	T	E	N	C	N	T	O	G	L	G
I	E	A	G	Y	E	E	A	E	A	I	N	Y	E	I
A	S	R	R	R	T	F	S	Z	T	I	D	R	D	C
N	A	T	E	O	F	I	I	A	G	S	E	A	G	A
T	C	Y	E	A	V	L	M	N	U	T	S	R	E	L
S	G	A	T	E	A	R	E	E	E	U	R	B	B	R
T	R	S	R	I	O	L	A	W	S	D	U	I	O	W
R	O	S	C	F	L	A	P	P	L	Y	O	L	O	Ⓢ
E	U	E	N	A	C	A	D	E	M	I	C	R	K	Ⓑ
S	P	I	H	S	N	R	E	T	N	I	K	R	S	Ⓞ
S	S	C	L	I	N	I	C	S	S	A	L	C	T	Ⓙ

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Academic, Apply, Books, Brilliant, Career, Case, Challenging, Class, Clinics, Course, Debate, Degree, Essay, Fact, Grades, Groups, Information, Internships, Jobs, Knowledge, Laws, Library, Loans, Logical, Niche, Notes, Pressure, Readings, Refined, Revise, School, Specializations, Staff, Stress, Study, Test, Theory, Time, Training, Trial, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Knotted

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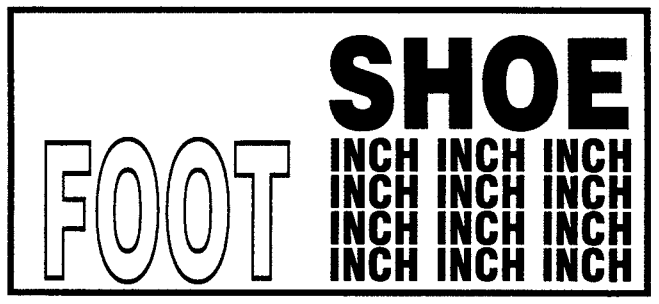

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Rodriguez and Posada power Yanks back to ALCS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Alex Rodriguez finally delivered the playoff performance he needed and his talent demanded, powering the New York Yankees back to the AL championship series.

During this first-round sweep of the Twins, Rodriguez's performance was nothing like all those oh-fers of Octobers past.

Rodriguez and Jorge Posada hit seventh-inning home runs to spoil Carl Pavano's opportunity to frustrate New Yorkers one more time, and the Yankees advanced to their first ALCS in five years with a 4-1 victory over Minnesota on Sunday night.

Rodriguez got off to a rocky start this year when he admitted in spring training to using steroids when he was with the Texas Rangers. Then he had hip surgery and missed the first month of the season as the Yankees stumbled out of the gate.

But baseball's highest-paid player returned with a more positive outlook, and New York surged to the top of the AL East.

Still, the third baseman entered this postseason in an 0-for-27 slide with runners on base dating to Game 4 of the 2004 ALCS.

"I knew that I couldn't change all the 0-for-4s, 0-for-5s and all the guys I left on base," said Rodriguez, who went 5 for 11 with two homers and six RBIs in these three games. "I'm content right now, both on and off the field."

Mariano Rivera got the last four outs in the final baseball game at the Metrodome, preserving Andy Pettitte's record-tying 15th career postseason win.

The Yankees will host the Los Angeles Angels in Game 1 of the ALCS on Friday night after missing the playoffs altogether in 2008.

"It's exciting," Rodriguez said. "We were very disappointed last year when we went home, and ownership got us some good players. We came out and played like a team, like a group of brothers."

Teammate Derek Jeter offered plenty of praise.

"The most impressive thing? He hit home runs when we needed him to," Jeter said. "He's been doing it all year really. He's been seeing the ball well the whole year."

This pitching duel between former teammates Pettitte and Pavano ended with another first-round playoff victory in Minnesota for the Yankees, who also eliminated the Twins here in 2003 and 2004.

"I was trying to match zeros with him," Pettitte said.

For all their success this decade by being so good at the basics, the Twins made glaring gaffes at the worst times. Doing that against the team that led the majors with 103 wins doomed them.

"It seems like just yesterday that we were pouring champagne for winning the division, and now it's over," catcher Joe Mauer said. "It just burns that we're done. I'm still trying to figure that one out."

The Yankees aren't about to let an opponent get away with overrunning the bases, as Carlos Gomez did in Game 2 to cost the Twins a run. Nick Punto then wasted his leadoff double in the eighth by failing to see that Denard Span's single didn't get past shortstop Jeter, and he was thrown out trying to retreat to third base.

Posada, who was upset when he was benched for Jose Molina with A.J. Burnett on the mound on Friday, gave Rivera more room with an RBI single in a two-run ninth as the crowd began to file out of the Dome for the final time.

Pettitte, who retired 17 of the first 18 batters he faced, left Joba Chamberlain a 2-1 lead with one out in the seventh. He matched John Smoltz for postseason victories, getting his first such win for the Yankees since the 2003 World Series against Pavano's Florida Marlins, who won it all that year.

The Yankees haven't experienced that euphoria since 2000, with the Pettitte-Posada battery, closer Rivera and captain Jeter the only pieces left from that squad.

"Up and down, there's no room to breathe," Twins first baseman Michael Cuddyer said. "That's why they spent all that money in the offseason, for this time of year."

Rivera came in to get Mauer on a bat-shattering groundout to end the eighth after the Twins blew their chance to score against Phil Hughes because of Punto's blunder. Manager Ron Gardenhire put his hands to his head in exasperation, and Orlando Cabrera followed with a flyout to center that could've got the run in.

"They deserve all the accolades. They've got the whole deal, and they've got some of the classiest guys out on the field," Gardenhire said. "I hate it when we play against them, because they kill us."

The Twins left 26 runners on base over the first two games, including 17 in the 11-inning defeat in Game 2, failing to get those big hits.

Pavano couldn't have started any stronger against the team that couldn't wait to get rid of him after four forgettable seasons. He struck out four during the first trip through baseball's best lineup—the Yankees led the majors in runs, homers and on-base percentage during the regular season—and the only hit he gave up in the first four innings didn't make it out of the infield.

Effectively spotting his changeup and sinker, Pavano completed seven innings with a season-high nine strikeouts and no walks.

"He was tough," Posada said. "You've got to give a lot of credit to him."

The last professional baseball game under this billowing roof was supposed to be a week ago. After beating Detroit in an AL Central tiebreaker on Tuesday night, here the Twins were, playing in front of another packed stadium.

They made every game down the stretch count for more than just a last-chance-to-see-the-Metrodome memory, catching Detroit with 17 wins in their last 21 games including that epic tiebreaker game for the division title on Tuesday.

Ah, but these Yankees aren't the same as the Tigers or the White Sox or the Royals, as the Twins were painfully reminded during the first two games in New York—and again on Sunday.

Mauer's two-out single in the sixth justified the "MVP!" chants, gave the Twins their first lead at home over the Yankees in four games this year.

Pettitte, who became the major league leader in career postseason innings pitched, snapped back to strike out Cuddyer on a high fastball. The 37-year-old left-hander pumped his fist as he headed to the dugout.

Then Pavano's performance was quickly blemished by the big opposite-field homers by Rodriguez and Posada.

AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, Robinson Cano, Jerry Hairston Jr. and Nick Swisher, from left, celebrate in the locker room after the Yankees defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-1 in Game 3 of the American League division baseball series Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009, in Minneapolis.

Rodriguez had fallen behind 0-and-2 before working the count full. Just like that, the Yankees were back in front.

Angels 7, Red Sox 6

At Boston, Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-out, two-run single off Red Sox closing pitcher Jonathan Papelbon in the ninth inning as the Los Angeles Angels rallied past Boston 7-6 in Game 3 Sunday, advancing to the American League championship series with their first ever postseason sweep.

The Red Sox intentionally walked Torii Hunter with runners on second and third to bring up Guerrero, a star who had long been waiting for a big October hit. Guerrero capped the three-run comeback with his go-ahead hit off Papelbon, who had never before allowed a run in the postseason.

The Angels open their first ALCS since 2005 on Friday against either the New York Yankees or Minnesota. The Yankees led that series 2-0 going into Game 3 Sunday night.

The Angels joined the Los Angeles Dodgers, who beat St. Louis, with first-round sweeps. The victory kept open the possibility of a Freeway Series — this is the first time the Angels and Dodgers are in the league championship series in the same year.

Down 5-1 early and still trailing 6-4 in the ninth, the Angels began their rally when Erick Aybar singled on a two-strike pitch. Chone Figgins walked and Bobby Abreu hit an RBI double for the first postseason run Papelbon had allowed.

After Hunter was walked intentionally, Guerrero, who had one RBI in his previous 19 postseason games, singled sharply to center on the first pitch.

The Red Sox had won 12 of 13 postseason games against the Angels heading into the series, including an 11-game winning streak that dated back to Dave Henderson's homer off Donnie Moore in the 1986 ALCS.

Phillies 6, Rockies 5

At Denver, Brad Lidge stranded runners at first and second base on a bitterly cold Sunday night when he got Troy Tulowitzki to fly out to shallow left field, preserving the Philadelphia Phillies' 6-5 win over Colorado in Game 3 of their NL playoff series.

Huston Street allowed Ryan Howard's sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth that scored Jimmy Rollins from third base with the tiebreaking run after another apparent blown call by the umpires.

The defending world series champions lead the best-of-five series 2-1 and can wrap up the series Monday when they send Game 1 winner Cliff Lee to the mound to face Rockies ace Ubaldo Jimenez.

NBA BRIEFS

Warriors suspend Jackson for 2 games

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Golden State Warriors swingman Stephen Jackson has been suspended for two exhibition games for conduct detrimental to the team. The team said the suspension is for Jackson's behavior Friday night against the Lakers. He picked up five fouls plus a technical foul in less than 10 minutes of action. He went to the locker room from the bench and never returned. Jackson will miss Saturday night's game against Phoenix in Indian Wells, Calif., and Monday's game in Los Angeles against the Clippers. Jackson has been unhappy with Golden State's decline since reaching the second round of the 2007 playoffs. He was fined $25,000 by the NBA last month for publicly requesting a trade. Before the game, Warriors coach Don Nelson refused to discuss the specifics of Jackson's suspension. But he did say it was an action he and the team didn't want to take.

"In my 30-some odd years in coaching, I never suspended a player before. Maybe I should have a couple of times, but I never have," Nelson said. "I try to stay away from doing anything costing players a lot of money. I may have taken $5,000 or $10,000, but I've tried to stay away from that."

Kings' Garcia breaks right forearm lifting weights

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Sacramento Kings swingman Francisco Garcia will have surgery after breaking his right forearm while lifting weights. The Kings said Garcia was injured on Friday and will have the surgery on Saturday. They provided no timeline for when he might return. Last month, Garcia fractured his right ring finger. The fifth-year player averaged 12.7 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 65 games, 36 starts, for Sacramento last season.

Daye, Delfino suspended one game

NEW YORK (AP)—Detroit Pistons forward Austin Daye and Milwaukee Bucks guard Carlos Delfino have each been suspended one game without pay for their roles in an altercation during Wednesday night's preseason game. Daye has been suspended for striking Delfino in the face, and Delfino has been suspended for retaliating by swinging at Daye. The incident occurred with 34.1 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of Detroit's 113-104 win over Milwaukee. Daye and Delfino will serve their suspensions with the first game of the regular season in which they eligible and able to play.

Americans win the Presidents Cup

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tiger Woods provided a fitting conclusion Sunday to a perfect week at the Presidents Cup, for him and an American team that remains perfect at home.

With a flop shot out of the trees to set up one last birdie, Woods won the point that clinched the cup and made him only the third player in the Presidents Cup to win all five matches.

His 6-and-5 victory over Y.E. Yang was a tiny token of revenge for Woods blowing a final-round lead to him in the PGA Championship this summer. Even so, it was the first time in either the Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup that Woods earned the decisive point.

And he didn't even know it.

"Oh, perfect," Woods said, an apt choice of words. "All I knew was I was trying to get my point, and I was 5 up trying to make it 6."

Phil Mickelson wrapped up another anticlimactic finish with a 7-foot birdie putt for a 2-and-1 victory over Retief Goosen, leaving Lefty unbeaten (4-0-1) in the Presidents Cup for the second time in the last three contests.

The Americans won 19 1/2-14 1/2, the same margin as last time against an overmatched International team.

"They are just one hell of a team," Ernie Els said. "We have to pretty much go back to the drawing board, because they are a pretty well-oiled team, and it's hard to beat that kind of team."

The United States leads 6-1-1 since the Presidents Cup began in 1994, and it improved to 5-0 on home soil, the previous four victories coming across the country in Virginia.

"I'm sure we tried our best all week," Geoff Ogilvy said after his 2-and-1 victory over Steve Stricker. "Coming in today, we had too much to do and the U.S. team was obviously very motivated."

British Open champion Stewart Cink, disgusted with his performance Saturday, asked to play early and put the first point on the board by overwhelming Adam Scott, a questionable captain's pick who contributed only one point for the week.

Sean O'Hair and Anthony Kim followed with big victories of their own, and Hunter Mahan eventually won his leadoff match over Camilo Villegas of Colombia, the only player to get shut out at Harding Park.

That set the stage for Woods, whose performance has been mediocre since he started playing these team competitions in 1997.

He won four holes in a five-hole stretch in the middle of the round, pouring in one birdie putt after another, then sealed it with a 9-foot birdie on the 13th hole.

Woods went 5-0 for the week, joining Mark O'Meara (1996) and Shigeki Maruyama (1998) as the only players to win all five matches in the Presidents Cup. Woods has 18 victories, the most of any player in this event.

AP

The United States team poses with the Presidents Cup trophy following the closing ceremonies of the Presidents Cup at Harding Park Golf Course in San Francisco, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009.

"It's one of my better Cup experiences—we won, and that's the name of the game, whether you go 0-5 or 5-0," Woods said. "The fact that we won, that's the No. 1 thing. We came here to win as a team, and we did it."

Woods and Stricker became the first partnership in the Presidents Cup to win all four of their matches, with Stricker making all the putts and Woods providing the defining moment Saturday morning with a 25-foot birdie and a 3-iron to 8 feet on the par-5 18th that turned a certain loss into an inspiring victory in foursomes.

U.S. captain Fred Couples was the first to greet Woods with a hug.

When Couples was appointed captain, he called Woods and jokingly asked for a big favor: Make the team so Couples wouldn't have to waste a captain's pick on the world's No. 1 player.

What he didn't tell Woods were the expectations Couples had for him at Harding Park.

"I needed him—this is going to sound stupid—to go 5-0," Couples said.

It was the first time Woods and Yang have played together since the South Korean became the first player to rally in the final round at a major to beat Woods. This wasn't quite the same.

"He got me there, and I figured I could get him here," Woods said. "It certainly was not exactly the same atmosphere, but then it still was an important point."

Mickelson might have played the best for the Americans, carrying along three partners in the team matches and hanging on to beat Goosen. He went 4-0-1 for the week, and revealed after his match that his wife, Amy, had joined him on the weekend.

She is recovering from breast cancer and has not traveled with Mickelson since The Players Championship, a week before she was diagnosed. Amy Mickelson did not come to Harding Park on Sunday.

"I didn't think she was coming up, and she actually hid in the bathroom when I walked in my room," Mickelson said. "I didn't know she was there, and she scared me pretty good. It was an awesome surprise, though."

Among the few bright spots for the International team on a cold autumn afternoon was Tim Clark, who made eight birdies in 15 holes for a 4-and-3 victory over Zach Johnson. Ryo Ishikawa of Japan, at 18 the youngest player ever in these matches, kept his cool down the stretch to beat 49-year-old Kenny Perry.

Another moment came from Vijay Singh, who led the International team with a 2-0-3 record. It might have been slightly better, but after narrowly missing an eagle putt on the 18th hole, he graciously conceded Lucas Glover's 7-foot birdie putt to halve the match.

Glover had been 0-3 for the week, and it kept the U.S. Open champion from being shut out.

"He would have made it, anyway," Singh said.

By then, the Presidents Cup had long been decided. The Americans had a three-point lead going into singles, and picked up seven points in the final session.

Next up is a trip to Royal Melbourne in Australia in 2011, site of the International team's only victory. Greg Norman is expected to return as International team captain. The Americans, meanwhile, start qualifying in earnest next year for the Ryder Cup in Wales.

This is the first time since 2000 that the Americans held the Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup at the same time.

McD over Belichick as Broncos defeat Pats, 20-17

DENVER (AP)—Kyle Orton moved Denver from its 2 yard line to the end zone to tie it and Matt Prater kicked a 41-yard field goal in overtime to give the Denver Broncos a 20-17 victory over the New England Patriots.

The result made rookie Broncos coach Josh McDaniels a winner over his old boss, Bill Belichick and gave Denver its fifth win from five games for the first time since 1998—the last time they went to the Super Bowl.

Orton threw for 330 yards and two scores and the defense held New England (3-2) scoreless in the second half.

Cowboys 26, Chiefs 20 OT

At Kansas City, Missouri, Miles Austin scored the winning touchdown in overtime on a 60-yard catch-and-run to cap a huge game in place of the injured Roy Williams. Austin had 10 catches for 250 yards as the Cowboys survived numerous mistakes against the winless Chiefs.

Austin also had a tackle-breaking 59-yard touchdown catch to give the Cowboys (3-2) a 20-13 lead with 2:16 left in the fourth quarter. On both plays, he slipped the grasp of cornerback Maurice Leggett and then made safety Mike Brown miss.

Falcons 45, 49ers 10

At San Francisco, Roddy White had a 90-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown and a 31-yard TD reception, and Michael Turner ran for three scores to end San Francisco's five-game home winning streak.

White finished with eight catches for a career-high 210 yards against the 49ers' usually stingy defense. Six of those receptions were in the first half for 185 yards, as Atlanta (3-1) came out of its bye week sharp in all phases and finished with a 477-279 advantage in total yards. Matt Ryan completed 22 of 32 passes for 329 yards and two TDs and also ran for a late score.

Cardinals 28, Texans 21

At Glendale, Arizona, Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown with 2:20 to go and the Arizona defense stopped the Texans three times at the 1-yard line in the final minute.

Matt Schaub brought the Texans back from a 21-0 halftime deficit to tie the game and had completed 11 straight when Rodgers-Cromartie, playing with a fractured right index finger, stepped in front of intended receiver Kevin Walter.

Seahawks 41, Jaguars 0

At Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck returned from being sidelined two games with broken ribs to throw four touchdown passes as Seattle rolled to their biggest home shutout in 25 years.

The Seahawks (2-3) were still missing seven starters, including three-fifths of their starting offensive line. Didn't matter: Hasselbeck was back.

Bengals 17, Ravens 14

At Baltimore, Carson Palmer threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Andre Caldwell with 22 seconds left to cap an 80-yard drive fueled by Baltimore penalties.

An illegal contact penalty against Chris Carr and an unnecessary roughness call against Ray Lewis preceded the topper, a pass interference penalty against Frank Walker on third-and-16 from the Baltimore 30 — although the infraction was called by the officials against Ed Reed.

Eagles 33, Buccaneers 14

At Philadelphia, Donovan McNabb showed he was fine after missing two games with a broken rib, throwing for 264 yards and three touchdowns.

Rookie Jeremy Maclin had two TD catches and the lopsided score allowed Michael Vick to take extra snaps at quarterback in the fourth quarter.

McNabb was injured running for a score in the season opener at Carolina.

Steelers 28, Lions 20

At Detroit, Ben Roethlisberger had a season-high three touchdowns passes for Pittsburgh (3-2), supported by thousands of black-and-gold clad fans. They went ahead on Rashard Mendenhall's TD run midway through the first quarter and took a 15-point lead in the third on Roethlisberger's 47-yard pass to rookie Mike Wallace.

Detroit (1-4) drove into Pittsburgh territory on the ensuing series, but Daunte Culpepper's up-for-grabs pass was intercepted by Ryan Clark.

Panthers 20, Redskins 17

At Charlotte, North Carolina, the Panthers (1-3), aided by a disputed call and Jake Delhomme's bold third-down run, jump-started a sagging season at the expense of embattled Washington coach Jim Zorn.

The Panthers scored the game's final 18 points, with Jonathan Stewart's 8-yard run with 9:21 left the go-ahead touchdown.

Giants 44, Raiders 7

At East Ruther4ford, New Jersey, Eli Manning threw two scoring passes and led the Giants on touchdown drives on their first four series in his 83rd straight start.

Manning tossed touchdown passes of 30 yards to Mario Manningham and 9 yards to first-round draft pick Hakeem Nicks. He finished 8 of 10 for 173 yards on a day the Giants gained 483 yards. New York (5-0) is off to its best start since winning the Super Bowl in 1990.

Vikings 38, Rams 10

At St. Louis, Brett Favre threw for 232 yards and a touchdown a day after his 40th birthday. Spry and efficient, Favre showed no signs of a letdown after beating the Packers, his former team, last week, dodging defenders and winging passes in every direction to give Minnesota its first 5-0 start in six years.

Browns 6, Bills 3

At Orchard Park, New York, backup kicker Billy Cundiff hit an 18-yard field goal with 23 seconds remaining. Cundiff's kick ended a display of offensive ineptitude between the Browns and Bills in a how-bad-was-it game.

Cundiff also made a 24-yard field goal in the second quarter, while punter Dave Zastudil was the Browns' MVP. Zastudil downed seven of nine punts inside the Bills 20, including three inside the 5.

Colts 31, Titans 9

At Nashville, Tennessee, Peyton Manning had 309 yards and three touchdown passes as Indianapolis never trailed in beating their AFC South rivals Tennessee for its NFL-best 14th straight regular-season win.

Manning joined Kurt Warner and Steve Young as the only NFL quarterbacks to open a season by throwing for at least 300 yards in the first five games. He will have to wait out a bye week to try and match them with a sixth such game.

Roach wants swift DQ after low blow

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—Legendary American trainer Freddie Roach wants one specific but stricter rule implemented in the 12-round WBO welterweight title fight between his prized ward Manny Pacquiao and Puerto Rican champion Miguel Cotto.

Pacquiao

Roach

Roach said he would insist during the rules meeting that an automatic disqualification be imposed for the first intentional low blow thrown during the Nov. 14 showdown in Las Vegas.

"Cotto tends to get dirty when the going gets tough in most of his fights and I don't want that to happen," said Roach during an interview with the Inquirer Sunday morning at the upscale Manor Hotel. "I will make sure the referee will be very strict about it."

Roach said Cotto got away with a foul blow against American Zab Judah back in November 2007.

Though Cotto stopped Judah in the 11th round, the American did not easily give up and even had the Puerto Rican wobbly at times.

"Cotto stops his opponents' momentum with that kind of blow. In that Judah fight he had five low blows," said Roach.

Roach said he's also concerned about the choice of referee for the bout, saying he learned that seasoned referee Joe Cortez has the inside track on the job.

"Joe Cortez is Puerto Rican and he's in the running as one of the referees. I don't want him letting Cotto get away with stuff like that. We're going to make an issue out of it first," said Roach.

Meantime Roach dismissed rumors they plan to leave earlier than expected for the United States after heavy rains hampered Pacquiao's training last week. ***(PDI)***

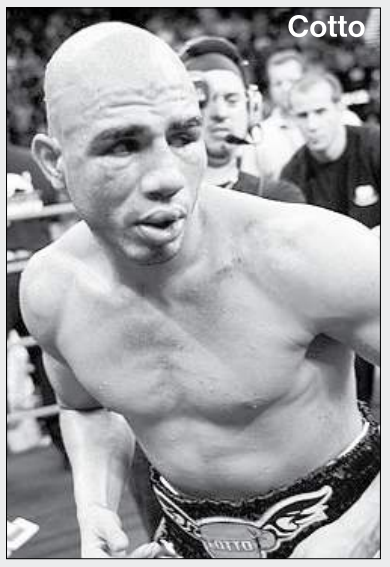
Cotto trainer says sparring key to beat Pacman

WBO welterweight champion Miguel Cotto is pushing himself to the limit as he trains at the Fight Factory in Tampa, Florida to prepare for his monumental showdown against boxing icon Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 14.

Trainer Joe Santiago, in an interview with boxingscene, reveals that training camp has been going well without any problem, in stark contrast to the in-fighting among some of Pacquiao's trusted people, as well as the recent landslide that killed people near Baguio City, venue of Pacquiao's training.

"It has all gone very well here. Thank God everything has gone smoothly. Miguel is very good, happy and in good spirits, which is important," Santiago said.

"Everything is running more or less the same [as the Joshua Clottey camp]. The only thing different is the strategic plan we are working on now. We are dealing with a southpaw boxer, with great hand speed, and for that we are preparing."


Cotto

To prepare for Pacquiao, Cotto does the traditional morning runs and fitness, along with technical work in the evenings. Sparring takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while floor exercises on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and using Sunday as a day off.

While Pacquiao's sparring partners are all over the news and his every move chronicled, Santiago refused to divulge the names of Cotto's sparring partners although it has been rumored Frankie Figueroa has worked with Cotto in camp. Santiago says getting the right kind of sparring is key to victory.

"That's the key, the sparring. That's as close as you can get to the fight. That's where you can develop the strategy for fighting," Santiago said. ***(PDI)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	1	0	.750	74	57
New England	3	2	0	.600	104	91
Miami	1	3	0	.250	81	79
Buffalo	1	4	0	.200	77	116
South						
Indianapolis	5	0	0	1.000	137	71
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	97	127
Houston	2	3	0	.400	115	120
Tennessee	0	5	0	.000	84	139
North						
Cincinnati	4	1	0	.800	101	90
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	138	97
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	113	98
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	55	121
West						
Denver	5	0	0	1.000	99	43
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	101	102
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	49	130
Kansas City	0	5	0	.000	84	138

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	0	0	1.000	151	71
Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	127	86
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	122	98
Washington	2	3	0	.400	73	82
South						
New Orleans	4	0	0	1.000	144	66
Atlanta	3	1	0	.750	102	63
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	57	104
Tampa Bay	0	5	0	.000	68	140
North						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	156	90
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	105	78
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	104	93
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	103	162
West						
San Francisco	3	2	0	.600	112	98
Arizona	2	2	0	.500	85	89
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	115	82
St. Louis	0	5	0	.000	34	146

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 28, Detroit 20
N.Y. Giants 44, Oakland 7
Cleveland 6, Buffalo 3
Dallas 26, Kansas City 20, OT
Minnesota 38, St. Louis 10
Cincinnati 17, Baltimore 14
Carolina 20, Washington 17
Philadelphia 33, Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 45, San Francisco 10
Seattle 41, Jacksonville 0
Arizona 28, Houston 21
Denver 20, New England 17, OT
Indianapolis 31, Tennessee 9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMBA

From Page 28

awards, respectively.

Tournament director Macoi Aguda was awarded the men's A singles championship medal after outclassing Ferdie Arago in the finals. Andreau Galvez completed the Top 3 in the men's A singles class.

The lone women's singles division had Janis Parcon taking the first place medal. The runner-up medal went to Christy Villaflor, while Angie Ito finished third.

Aguda notched his second first place medal when he and teammate Merlie Tolentino ruled the mixed doubles A division after downing Gary Bandoja and Malou Malasarte in the finals.

Rounding out the Top 3 in the mixed doubles A were teammates Robert Reyes and Anna Rose Omori.

Also winning her second first place medal was Parcon, who joined forces with Arago in prevailing in the mixed doubles B finals against the duo of Jorge Olanda and Marlene Peraja. The tandem of Noli Santos and Anna Rose Omori settled for third place.

In the mixed doubles B, the pair of Joey Algenio and Riza Yutuc won over Espana and Elna Curate. Also making it to the medal podium were third placers Chris Hilario and Annette Ta.

This year's IT&E badminton tournament had a round robin format in both the singles and mixed doubles competitions with the Top 4 players/pairs in each division advancing to the single-elimination playoffs.

Besides awarding medals to the Top 3 placers, NMBA also gave two special awards.

The tandem of Rob Harrell and Malou Mendoza received the Sportsmanship Award while Parcon and Galvez were named Most Improved Players.

FEDERATIONS

From Page 28

Athletics, which is also represented by White, has a pool of athletes who are training regularly at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim was also present at the meeting and said they will get players from those who played in last month's goodwill meet on Saipan.

Lim added that Tinian players, who won the goodwill meet, have been training more consistently than Saipan paddlers.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has yet to decide on the selection criteria for athletes, but had already named its coach for the beach volleyball event in veteran player Russ Quinn.

NMIVA added there's a need to revive the indoor volleyball program first before making plans for forming squads.

"There are many people interested to play, but only a few are stepping up to organize tournaments. We need people to assist us in administering leagues/tournaments," White said.

Baseball is on offseason and will not start its league until early next year. However, baseball president Rose Igitol said they are planning to bring in CNMI students, who are in the mainland, to suit up for the Commonwealth's team and join forces with the veterans.

The CNMI is the defending champion in baseball, as it defeated Guam in a classic finale, 3-2.

Baseball official Tony Rogolifoi added Baseball Oceania development officer Ray Brown will visit Saipan next year and his presence will help the Commonwealth's preparation for the Micro Games.

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation had already decided on the number of swimmers they are sending to Palau.

NMSF president Bobby Winkfield said they are aiming to bring eight female and eight male swimmers to the Micro Games and they are also working on fundraising plans for the trip.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said they are likely to go with the same team that dominated the 2006 Micronesian Games in Palau. The team was composed of Race, Todd Montgomery, Kana Aikawa, and Tim Quan.

Spearfishing is not represented in NMASA, but sent three representatives to the NMASA meeting to express its intention to compete in Palau. The CNMI won both the individual and team events in the Micro Games in 2006.

Meanwhile, NMASA president Mike White said while it is important to lay out the local federations' plans for athletes' selection and training schedule early, it is equally crucial for them to start fundraising for the Micro Games as soon as possible.

The seventh edition of the Micro Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10. It is offering 15 sports, namely, baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fastpitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

MIEKO

From Page 28

Carey conducted a one and a half hour lesson, which focused on helping participants swim fast and right.

Joining the weekend session were Kento Akimaru, Joshua and Mami Berger, Matthew Mancao, Jeff Taylor, Kevin Carey, and Kimiko Hasegawa.

The first part of the swim lesson featured a discussion about Mieko's four principles in swimming, namely relaxing the body and trusting the water; practicing at the pool, planning, and practicing techniques learned.

In the application part of the lesson, Mieko taught participants the proper positioning of the body once in the water and kicking, pulling, and breathing techniques.

Mieko then demonstrated drills on and off the water and as a bonus she gave participants tips for ocean swim. These include checking the buoy often, checking the direction of the waves, using small and fast strokes when there are waves, and not standing up too early during races.

The veteran triathlete, who served as a masters coach for Renaissance Sports Club in Tokyo, Japan for five years, also gave a handout to each participants. On the last page of the handout, Mieko provided swimmers a sample of swim plan, which contains a warm-up drill, the basic swim techniques, main swim program, (distance/repetition), and cool-down drill.

Mieko thanked participants of the short clinic, as all proceeds from the event will be used for her trip to Maui, Hawaii later this month.

The 31-year-old triathlete will go to Hawaii to compete in the 2009 XTERRA World Championship as a pro for the first time.

"I had a great time with a great group last weekend. They listened well and tried hard to learn and for that I am very grateful to them. Thank you, too to Palms Resort for letting us used their pool and thank you to everyone for helping me in my trip to Maui," Mieko said.

9 CROWNED

From Page 28

Clay McCullough-Stearns saved third place after thumping Chris Park, 8-2.

The Top 3 placers in each division were given awards during a brief ceremony last night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan poolside. First placers received trophies, while the runners-up took home medals.

Meanwhile, tournament organizer Peter Loyola thanked the following for making the three-day event a successful one: IT&E, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff, Ken Imaya, Ryan Kim, Brian Hom, Darnel Dela Cruz, Izuka family, and the parents of all participants.

This year's Saipan Tennis Challenge used a pro-set (race-to-8) scoring for the adults and Levels 3 and 4 matches, while Levels 1 and 2 had a regular scoring (race-to-6), but had only one set for each game. Adults singles division implemented a single-elimination format, while the junior division was a double-elimination affair.

Matansa Football Club Family Day

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Matansa players help prepare their banner for the group photo session.

U8 players had their share of scrimmage in one of the small fields at GTC.

U13 female players huddle before their game against the U13 boys squad.

Two Matansa players enjoy a scrimmage after being treated to a late lunch feast.

Two Matansa players pose with club president Jerry Tan.

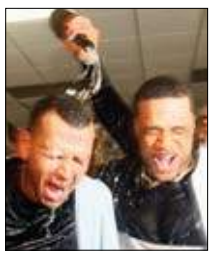
Players from Matansa Football Club pose for a group photo with the club's officials during the Matansa Football Club Family Day on Sunday at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Field.

U13 players exchange hi-fives after the friendly game.

A U13 female player tries to break away from the defense of the U13 boys team during their exhibition game.

U10 players in action in one of the scrimmages among members of Matansa Football Club.

NMIFA referee Dean Tenorio (in black shirt) officiates the U13 exhibition match.



Rodriguez and Posada power Yanks back to ALCS

Alex Rodriguez finally delivered the playoff performance he needed and his talent demanded, powering the New York Yankees back to the AL championship series. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Americans win the Presidents Cup

Tiger Woods provided a fitting conclusion Sunday to a perfect week at the Presidents Cup, for him and an American team that remains perfect at home. 25

9 crowned champs in Tennis Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior player Christian Miller started the 2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge as a replacement, but ended up as a champion, as he and eight others prevailed in separate title matches yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Miller, who replaced Rafael Jones' first round foe in the men's 4.0 division, won in the finals against adult player Jang Dongik Wo, 8-6.

The CNMI youth netter led early, 4-0, but lost his big advantage when Jang started going to the net. Miller could not hide his frustrations when Jang began his recovery and even tied the count at 6-all. The junior player was seen slamming the side of his racket to the court on a couple of times with the last one happening when Jang scored on a good shot at the net.

However, Miller regained his composure in the end, hitting a strong forehand that Jang returned, but the shot was wide.

Joining Miller in the champions circle were Lydia Tan, Vickie Izuka, Dan Wollak, Daniel Park, Matthew Lopez, Amami Sakano, Tony Kim, and Grace Kim.

Tan went 2-0 in the round robin women's 4.0 singles, downing Sakiko Eda on Saturday, 8-3, and shutting out junior player Jeane Bracken yesterday, 8-0.

Eda settled for a runner-up finish after outclassing Bracken on Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, 11-9.

In the women's B singles title showdown, Izuka blanked Akane Imaya yesterday, 8-0, while Wollak outplayed Hormas Dastoor in the men's 3.0 singles finals, 8-6.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Level 3 champion Matthew Lopez serves against Kevin Rhee during their semis match on Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Junior player Jake Lee claimed third place after winning via walkover against Angelo Jones.

In the juniors Level 1 beginners division. Grace Kim defeated twin brother Eric Kim, 8-6.

In the Level 1 Open division, Tony Kim stunned top seed Seung Jae Kim in the finals, 6-3. Mimi Sakano won in the battle for third place against Julie Kim.

The Level 2 title went to Amami Sakano, who prevailed over Clayton Izuka in the finals, 6-3. Kwang Jae finished third, while Steven Goodwin settled for fourth place.

The Level 3 title was an easy picking for Matthew Lopez, who walloped Sky Izuka in the finals, 8-0. Mikayla Lopez won third place after beating Joel Jang in the consolation game, 8-5.

In the Level 4 finals, Park crushed Carl Dela Cruz, 8-1.

See 9 CROWNED on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Men's B singles champion Keno San Pablo, right, joins NMBA president Shirley Kim and tournament director Macoi Aguda for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament on Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

NMBA fetes singles, doubles winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament concluded on Sunday night with Northern Marianas Badminton Association handing medals to winners during an awards ceremony at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Leading the awardees were youth players Rodwealth Espana, Ezekiel Macario, and Manatsu Omori. Espana won the men's C singles title, beating Macario in the finals, while Omori took third place.

In the men's B singles, Keno San Pablo claimed the first place medal, while Noli Santos and James Digno went home with the runner-up and third place

See NMBA on Page 26

Federations bare plans for Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Local sports federations updated Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association about their plans for the 2010 Micronesian Games with most of them still in the early stages of preparations.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands through representative Gabriel White disclosed at the NMASA meeting last week that they are still working on the criteria for the selection of athletes.

White added they are hoping to use the Budweiser Men's Basketball League as a venue to look for players who will represent the CNMI to the Micro Games in Palau next year.

He also said they are hoping to tap CNMI players in the mainland.

See FEDERATIONS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian's Robin Lu serves during last month's 12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. MATTA is planning to send players who competed in the goodwill meet to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Mieko shares swim lessons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey corrects Mamiko Berger's feet positioning, while Joshua Berger looks on during a swim lesson at the Palms Resort on Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

XTERRA World Championship participant Mieko Carey took time out to share swimming techniques to fellow swimmers on Saturday at the Palms Resort pool.

See MIEKO on Page 26